

Keelhauler's Ka-news



JANUARY, 2016



Next Club Meeting February 27th,

Club Get-Together at the [Fox & Hound Restaurant](#) in Mayfield Hts.
after roll session at 6:30 p.m.
Everyone welcome!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl M. Nelson



Geese come in gaggles. What is the proper word for a group of kayakers and canoers? Mixed company? Flotilla? What if they are gathered for a potluck? Hungry? Whatever, there was quite an eclectic collection of us at the Middleburg Heights Community Center in early December. Donna's grandson entertained us with a video of Class V Ohio Whitewater. Jim Hunt gave us a preview of the pictures to be found in the 2016 Keelhaulers' Yearbook. Nobody went home hungry. Father Time turns a page and it will soon be 2016. The majority of the paddling will take place at pool sessions [Orange; Lakewood; and Canton]. The folks at the pool sessions may paddle different rivers than you during the summer, but in the winter

we all tend to congregate at the same cement ponds. Instead of the display of post-paddling pyrotechnic prowess accompanied by consumption of calories we find in the summer (translation: scorching hotdogs over a campfire), take the opportunity to share a bite to eat with your fellow club members in more elegant surroundings. The Fox and Hound event on the Trip Schedule is merely a suggestion. Y'all can organize the time and place for such culinary confabulations yourself.

Winter also finds us traveling far afield for adventure. Some are headed to Costa Rica. Some are headed for the ski slopes. Some are headed for the couch for a long winters nap. Whatever y'all do, stay safe and we'll see you on the river before long.

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES
From Marcia Karchmer, Secretary
December 9, 2015

Meeting December 9, 2015: Christmas Pot Luck
Good food and good company was had by all! We watched a video on Ohio Whitewater, by Donna and Carl Homberg's grandson. Nicely done!
See you in 2016 for the roll sessions?
Those who are going--have fun on the Costa Rica paddle!

Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report - December 22, 2015

CD 0402	\$2, 273.87
CD 1077	\$2, 271.44
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 251.77</u>
CD'S	\$6, 797.08
Checking	<u>\$8, 299.22</u>
Total	<u>\$15,096.30</u>

**Rental fee for the 2016 Middleburg Heights
Community Center meeting site was paid.**

BALD EAGLES AND BOATERS

By Debbie Avallone

El Nino brought record breaking warm temperatures and a record breaking number of kayakers to the Lower Yough for a mid-December paddling fix. The parking lot of the boater change house has as many cars & boaters as a sunny day in July. The only obvious difference is the number people sporting dry suits. The water temp is 44'.

Herds of kayakers move slowly down river chatting, laughing and making the most of their time on the river. The usual play is tempered a bit by the desire to avoid going under. Those unfortunates who did, all rolled quickly. Red faces showed the pain of only seconds submersed.

At Dimple, rather than looking down river, everyone is looking up into the trees on river right. A bald eagle sits surveying her domain. Each group of departing kayakers points out the stately sight to the next incoming group. All stare in appreciation.

Later, in the flat water below Bottle of Wine, a roaring cheer comes from the crowd of boaters behind us. It isn't the usual hoot & holler of applauding friends playing in a wave nor the good natured mocking when a pal trips over an unseen rock. This is the roar of a crowd, a wave of human sound of appreciation. Just above us the eagle is gliding slowly down river. She is not high above the trees but, just several yards above us. She is so close we can see each individual feather of her wide spread wings, the triangle shape of tail feathers, her white head, yellow beak and intense eyes. After our holler of appreciation and notice to those still ahead all sit quiet, just quiet, as the magnificent bird slowly moved further down river.

Upcoming Roll Sessions

Make sure your boats are CLEAN inside and out when you go to any of the three pools for roll sessions. We do not want to lose our pool sessions. See website link for the most up to date information. <http://www.keelhauler.org/Instruction/#pool>



Cartoon by Dean Norman

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still in need of articles.....Thanks!

From John Kobak:

I propose that each month under this same 50 year title, [Old time Club Members](#) or anyone else, post a story from the old days. Please send Kelly a story each month and keep this going until next spring.

[Where in the World is Kobak Now](#)

**Unfortunate Note copied from the New York Times
December 9, 2015**

Douglas Tompkins, a noted conservationist and the founder of the North Face and Esprit clothing brands, died on Tuesday after a kayaking accident in the Patagonia region of southern Chile. He was 72.

His death was confirmed by Coyhaique Regional Hospital, where Mr. Tompkins was flown with severe hypothermia. The health service in the Aysén administrative region said Mr. Tompkins was boating with five others on General Carrera Lake when their kayaks capsized in heavy waves.

Chile's army said that a patrol boat rescued three of the boaters and that a helicopter lifted out the other three. No one else was seriously injured.

A local prosecutor, Pedro Salgado, told radio Bío Bío that the lake was known for unpredictable weather conditions. He said that Mr. Tompkins had spent "considerable amount of time in waters under 4 degrees Celsius," or under 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

A lifelong outdoorsman, Mr. Tompkins made his fortune in retailing but later shunned the business world to pursue his passion for nature and conservationism.

**KHCC Trip Schedule 2016
By Dennis Dukeman**

Preliminary 2016 Trip Schedule

**We need more organizers - Please check the schedule
for open trips and volunteer.**

Then contact: [Dennis Dukeman](mailto:ddukeman@neo.rr.com) . . . 330-858-6270 or at ddukeman@neo.rr.com

January				
1/1	New Year's Day paddle on the (4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
1/16-23	Costa Rica Week of Rivers, 7 day all-inclusive Sold out or see Costa Rica Rios		Joe Marks	216-533-0604
1/3,10,17,24,31	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 -10:45 AM		John Banach	330-606-5032
1/09,23	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
1/23	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
February				
2/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 -10:45 AM		John Banach	330-606-5032
2/6	Ohiopyle Winterfest & Paddle the (4) Loop (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
2/20,27	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
2/13,27	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
2/27	Club Get-Together at the Fox & Hound Restaurant in Mayfield Hts after roll session at 6:30 PM, everyone welcome.		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483

My Needs Are Few

By H. Dee Payton

Just give me a stream
with a class III or IV,
A place to put in,
and I'll ask you no more.

Or give me a river
that's flowing and quiet,
And leave me alone,
a day and a night.

Or give me a lake
with trees near the shore,
And I'll paddle away,
to return brown & sore.

To sum it all up,
My needs are quite few,
Just water and nature,
And of course, my canoe!

(Or my new last verse)
To sum it all up,
My name is Kobak,
Just water and nature,
And of course, my KAYAK!

FRIENDS OF THE CHEAT



WORKING TO RESTORE, PRESERVE, AND PROMOTE
THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL QUALITIES OF THE
CHEAT WATERSHED

Help Reauthorize the Fund That Saved the Cheat River and More! Act Now!



Have you paddled the Cheat, Gauley, or New Rivers? Hiked in Cathedral State Park? Skied in Canaan Valley?

All of these places have benefited from the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**. For 50 years, it used royalties from offshore drilling to fund access to some of our best lands and rivers—lots of state parks and forests, too! In Preston County, WV, alone, the **LWCF** donated more than \$181,000 - and \$233,000,000 statewide! For more information on the **LWCF** in West Virginia, or to see what has been funded in your state, click [here](#).

The **Land and Water Conservation Fund** expired September 30—even though most Senators and Representatives wanted to reauthorize it. Our friends at West Virginia Rivers Coalition are working to bring it back! Sign their [petition](#)!

Ultimately, it's up to YOU to raise your voice and make changes happen.

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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. 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 **February issue of the newsletter is **1/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)

January, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news



FEBRUARY, 2016



Next Club Meeting February 27th,

Club Get-Together at the Fox & Hound Restaurant in Mayfield Hts.
after the roll session at 6:30 p.m.
Everyone welcome!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT By Karl M. Nelson



Somehow this post from Travis Overstreet showed up on my Facebook page. I'm not quite sure how it all works—a friend of a friend of a friend? But anyway, it started me thinking about the folks who showed me how to paddle. There was John Foshee (Alabama Float Trips) and the open boat canoe class at UAB in the late 1980's. There were Ted and Helen Sparks and the Birmingham Canoe Club on trips to the Hiwassee and Nantahala in the 1990's. There was C'line at Madawaska. A shout out to Fran Hoven and the *Intro to the Lower Yough* trips in the 2000's. Thinking back

on it, I probably shouldn't have been on the Lower Yough—but thanks to all those who tolerated my swims, I eventually became competent.

But the real learning comes from the river. On some days, it pats you on the head and says way to go! On other days, the river thinks you are flying to close to the sun and smacks you upside the head!

[Travis Overstreet II](#) [December 30, 2015 at 6:05pm](#) ·

The past few years it seems that an elitist level has developed due to advancements in boat, accessories and safety gear. Unfortunately, boaters of lower skill levels are being forced to stick to easier runs because the 'Elitist' are keeping their groups tight and not wanting to paddle easier runs with less experienced boaters. Now don't get me wrong, I completely understand that you wouldn't take a class III boater down the Green for example. However, it used to be that experienced boaters would be willing to paddle with lesser to help bring up the sport and strengthen ties between all levels. Now I'm talking about actually helping them on the river, not just running shuttle with them. I've noticed lately that Canoe Clubs still keep this old school mentality alive and present but there's not too much outside of these groups. NOW I NEVER SAID ALL BOATERS ARE LIKE THIS but it is enough to be noticed by the other abilities. Open your door to others and it will make you a better boater along with them. Obviously as your ability increases so does your chances to run harder rivers or creeks but how can one become a class 4 boater if no one is willing to help them increase their personal potential. Yes, they could go pay for instruction, but then you wouldn't know if that person could handle the stress of a serious rescue. I am by no means calling anybody out; all I want is for the Paddling community to help each other. And whatever happened to waving if you see a fellow boater? Our lifestyle is one of a kind and is growing every day by leaps and bounds. Teach a class; go to a roll session and just help. We all sat in a boat for the first time and wondered what's this all about. Please feel free to message me your thoughts. Somebody somewhere took you under their wing at some point didn't they?

There are several programs on the schedule for March and April. There will be one on dragon boats in March. Bob and Elaine Mravetz will present a program on freestyle canoeing in April. One of the hardest days I ever spent IN a boat was at the Midwest Canoe Symposium. Then in August there will be an opportunity to obtain some river karma by helping with the Veterans Kayak Football Challenge 2.

DRAGON BOATS

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cleveland-Dragon-Boat-Association/193042890714857>

The Cleveland Dragon Boat Association will be speaking with the Keelhaulers Canoe Club at our March meeting about their organization and dragon boat paddling. Their primary mission is to promote and encourage participation in the sport of dragon boat racing. They also encourage paddling as a recreational and personal fitness activity on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Flats.

From its roots in the Far East, Dragon Boat is fast becoming a global Canoe Discipline at both competitive and recreational levels. Physically, these long, open canoes are paddled by 20 paddlers or, in the smaller 10-seater version by ten paddlers who all use single-bladed paddles. Often the craft will be elaborately decorated, and include a drummer and a coxswain or helmsman.

Dragons have a symbolic meaning for the Chinese. A classic dragon has the head of an ox, the antler of a deer, the mane of a horse, the body of a python, the claws of a hawk and the fins and tail of a fish. Through his strength and power, he can ride on clouds and command both the wind and rain.

Dragon Boats are designed to resemble these creatures. The bow is crafted as a dragon head while the stern resembles the tail. The hull is painted with scales and the paddles symbolically represent the claws. With at least two boats competing against each other over various distances, not only are strength, endurance, courage and skill important, but unity, harmony and team spirit are as well. This all becomes apparent when everybody in the boat paddles to the rhythm of the drum. With its strong visual impact, Dragon Boat is a superb spectator sport. In ancient China the Dragon Boat was used for religious purposes. But Dragon Boat rose to prominence since the death of the Great Poet, Qu Yuan, in 278BCE. The poet committed suicide in the river Mi Lo and a great Dragon Boat Festival became his memorial. Every year since, his death is marked with the Duanwu Festival (Dragon Boat Festival) also named the Double Fifth (5th day of the 5th month of the Chinese Calendar). And ever since, Dragon Boat racing is seen as a sign for patriotism and moral integrity in China.

VETERANS KAYAK FOOTBALL CHALLENGE 2

From: *Ryan Pepper*

Ohio State Director

ACA / Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

OHStateDirector@americancanoe.org

Happy New Year:

The community of Willowdale is excited to invite all the Veterans back to our lake for the Second Annual Veterans Kayak Football Challenge. The date of the event is Sunday August 7th at Willowdale Lake. Paulette has also secured the Canal Fulton Canoe Livery for all our campers starting Friday afternoon August 5th through

Monday morning August 8th. Time frames for games will be from 11:00 AM until 4:30 PM on Sunday. Please save the date and get the word out to any of the Veterans, groups and/or individuals that will be interested in coming.

For those of you not here last year we appointed Joe Mornini as the Grand Poobah of Kayak Football. He helped lead the charge in getting about 40 Veterans to Canton, Ohio to participate in the challenge. Each team has 5 players on the field during the game. Each game has two 10 minute half's and a 5 minute halftime. The majority of the Veterans were Team River Runner members from at least six states but we also had several Vets just show up and participate. We played a round robin, full contact, kayak football tournament. Team Ram Rod from Shepherds, West Virginia eventually fell to the TRR team from Walter Reed in the championship. I'm sure both teams will be back to battle it out again this year. The event does take place the same day as the Pro Football Hall of Fame Game and that game will be played at 8:00 that night.

For those of you that were here last year we hope you can all make it back and bring even more Veterans with you. I also do not want to hear how hard it was for Chris to herd cats. You're getting plenty of heads up so get your team here.

FREESTYLE CANOEING

<http://www.freestylecanoeing.com>

FreeStyle Canoeing is the "art and science" of quietwater paddling. FreeStyle Canoeing emphasizes smooth, efficient flatwater paddling and precision boat control. FreeStyle can be applied to all canoeing situations. Many FreeStyle canoeists paddle to music making an expressible, interpretive art form. FreeStyle paddling requires no special equipment other than a boat, a paddle, a life jacket, and in most cases a kneeling pad.

There are several opportunities to observe freestyle canoeing locally. There is the Solo Canoe Rendezvous the same weekend as the Slip Clinic. There is the Midwest Canoe Symposium in Peninsula.

Solo Canoe Rendezvous June 3-5, 2016 Coopers Lake Campground Slippery Rock, PA wpascr.org	Midwest Canoe Symposium September 9-11, 2016 Camp Butler - Peninsula, Ohio Interpretive FreeStyle Exhibition & Competition Saturday, September 10th, 2016 Bring a lawn chair, and come to watch!
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KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES
From Marcia Karchmer, Secretary
January, 2016

No meeting minutes to report since there was no meeting in January!

Vermilion River Race Help Needed
By Jon Reising

The Vermilion River Race is April 3rd this year. Due to Easter being so early we moved the race back to the first Sunday of April. We are going to "try" to have the race 3 more years. Hank Annable and I will greatly appreciate you sharing this one Sunday helping with the canoe/kayak race. Please come and see some friends from the past as well as meeting some new.

Jon Reising

Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report - January 14, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 274.52
CD 1077	\$2, 272.10
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 252.42</u>
CD'S	\$6, 799.04
Checking	<u>\$9, 058.11</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$15,857.15</u>

Keelhaulers Canoe Club

Proposed 2016 Budget

Category Description	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Actuals	FY 2016 Budget
ASSETS			
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$ 5,312.46	\$ 5,906.02	\$ 5401.67
CD (3) balance at start of FY	\$ 6,763.61	\$ 6,771.33	\$ 6,774.00
INCOME			
Conservation	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Dues	\$ 5,024.00	\$ 5,659.00	\$ 5,762.06
Reservations*	\$ 68.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 80.00
Vermilion Race	\$ 849.00	\$ 612.00	\$ 612.00
Pool session deposit refund	\$ 84.00		
NEO Paddlers' Network Income		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,065.00	\$ 6,619.00	\$ 6,714.06
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 18,141.07	\$ 19,296.35	\$ 18,889.73
LIABILITIES			
EXPENSE			
Conservation Donations	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00
Internet Access	\$ 100.00	\$ 117.00	\$ 117.00
Internet Domain	\$ 48.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 33.00
Marketing			
Library			\$ 200.00
Meeting Hall	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Network			\$ 350.00
Newsletter			
Postage & Supply	\$ 201.00		\$ 250.00
Refreshments		\$ 104.00	\$ 100.00
Vermilion Race	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 500.00
Yearbook Expense	\$ 1,822.00	\$ 1,844.00	\$ 1,844.00
Yough Reservations	\$ 240.00		\$ 80.00
Special Donation	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
Multimedia Rental	\$	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 5,561.00	\$ 6,828.00	\$ 6,524.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 12,580.07	\$ 12,468.35	\$ 12365.73
CONSERVATION DONATIONS			
	FY 2015 Actuals	FY 2016 Budget	
American Whitewater	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
Friends of the Cheat	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Friends of the Crooked River	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
American Rivers	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
River Network	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Nature Conservancy	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
Portage Park District			
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
TOTAL	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	

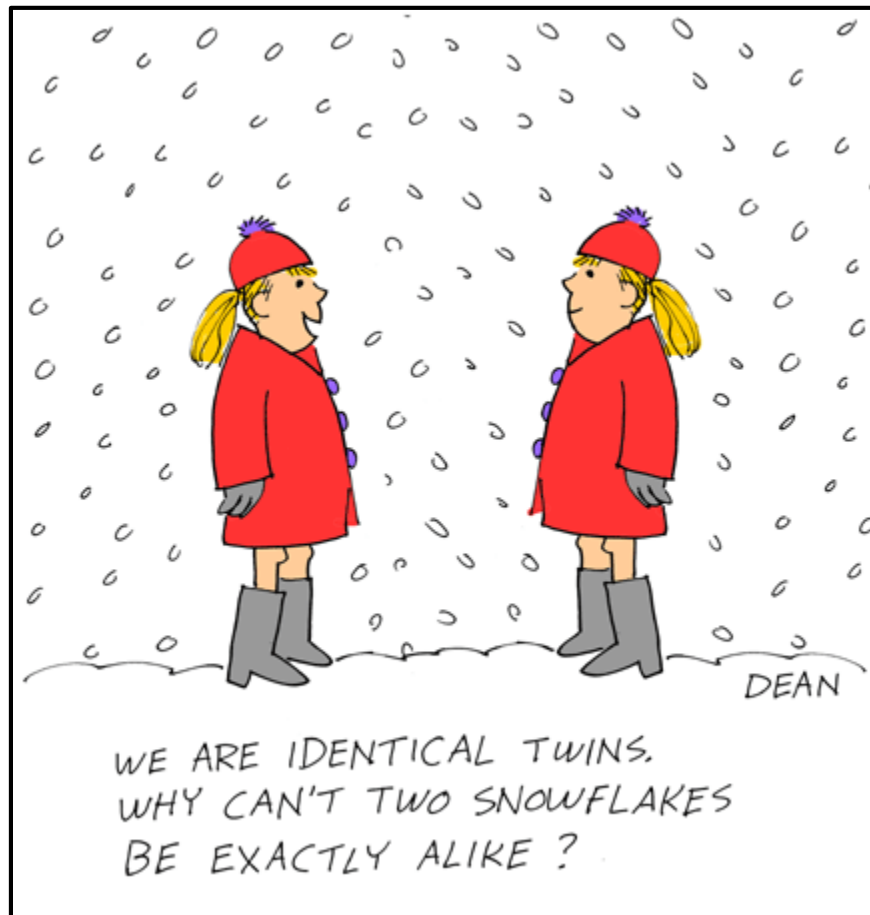
Free KHCC 2016 Photo Wall Calendar & Schedule

With thanks again to John Kobak.

Have you ever wanted a Keel-Hauler wall calendar with our yearbook pictures, but in color, and our 2016 trip schedule? All you need is a color printer and follow the instructions carefully. Go to this link:

[How to print our 2016 Schedule/Calendar](#)

Follow the instructions carefully. You print on both sides of the paper but don't use a 2 sided printer since the back side is printed upside down from first side.



Cartoon by Dean Norman

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

THE BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS CANOE CLUB

By Tom Annable as recalled by Hank, Tom & Reeny Annable

John Kobak proposed in a recent Keel-Haulers newsletter that "old time club members" post a story in a future newsletter about the early days of the canoe club. Hank Annable, being the only remaining active charter member of the club, is worthy of posting many stories about the club, but his most interesting collection of stories may be about the "birth" of the Keel-Haulers and his memories of its initial years. So, Hank's recollections as told to his son, Tom, and daughter, Reeny, over several family dinners (and a few beers), as well as information gleaned from early club catalogues, presents the following account of the first years of the club. It must be understood that many of the "facts" presented in this article are from the sometimes imperfect memories of Hank (age 86), Tom (61), and Reeny (60).

In the spring of 1967 Reece Fabbro, owner of Ohio Canoe Adventures in Sheffield Lake, Ohio and Bill Conrad, local canoeing enthusiast, also of Sheffield Lake, got together with the idea of forming a club for canoeists. They submitted an article to the local newspapers asking anyone who was interested in joining such a club to meet at the local chapter of the Elyria Red Cross. In addition to Bill and Reece, attendees at the first meeting included: Hank Annable of Oberlin, John and Sharon Maroney, and Michael Rubin of Elyria, Jerry Vencel of N. Ridgeville, John and Doris Hutton of Westlake, Randy Morgan of W. Richfield, and a few others.

Because no minutes of these first planning meetings are available, it's not remembered exactly how the Keel-Haulers club name or logo was determined, though much discussion and debate assuredly took place. It is believed that a flag and wood panel depicting "Mr. Keel-Hauler" were created, but their whereabouts today is unknown, though, this writer believes they may be stored away somewhere in Hank's garage among his many boats, paddles, and assorted camping and paddling gear. Several club members always thought that Mr. Keel-Hauler bore a strong resemblance to club member Jim Botamer ("Boats").

The first elected Club officers in 1967 were: Bill Conrad- President, Jerry Vencel-V. President, Doris Hutton- Secretary, and John Hutton-Treasurer. According to the 1968 catalog, Bill and Jerry again served in their respective positions while Audrey & Paul Snahnican served as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Standing Committee Chairmen in 1968 were: Randy Morgan-Conservation, Hank Annable-Recreation, Sharon Maroney- Information, and Michael Rubin- Safety. It is interesting to note that the first membership roster that was located (1968)

included 54 individual/family memberships. The Club's first "Aims and Bylaws", printed in the 1970 catalog, listed the annual membership fee as \$5.00.

The Club's initial goals/purpose, as printed in 1968, was:
"The purposes of our club are recreation, safety, information, and conservation. The four preceding purposes run together in all of our activities. We do not value any one of these purposes higher than the other.

Our present membership consists of people interested in: canoe cruising, white water shooting, racing and sailing. We do not in any way consider ourselves as professional. Our club wants to form a membership group who are basically interested in having a good time pursuing canoeing interests.

Our 1968 events will consist of canoe cruising of various rivers with overnight camping stops, white water shooting in season, endurance races covering various distances, and canoe sailing. The club sponsors two monthly events. Members, of course, can get together at any time to pursue any canoeing interest.

Our meetings and events allow for complete exchange of information and experiences among our members. Any members of our club will gladly answer any questions that any interested person may have.

Persons interested in becoming members are urged to attend any monthly club meeting at the Elyria Red Cross building located on West River Road. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m."

The 1968 schedule of activities ran from March to November and included trips to the: Mohican River, Vermilion River, Sandusky River, Killbuck Creek, Kokosing River, Findley Lake, Clarion River, PA, French Creek, PA, Mohican River, Youghiogheny River, PA, Piedmont Reservoir, Kinzua Reservoir, PA, the initial Sandusky Race, Lake Erie, Walhonding River, Youghiogheny River, PA, and the Cuyahoga River.

Additional canoeing events presented to the membership in 1968 included: the Mad Hatters Canoe Race, the National Whitewater Canoe Championships in PA, a Boy Scout canoe race, Little Miami Canoe Race in Cincinnati, Cleveland Lakefront Canoe Race, and whitewater schools in Brinkhaven, OH and Pennsylvania.

Official Trip Rules/Guidelines were printed as: 1. Always be careful..., 2. Courtesy is essential..., 3. In Camp, the family is the controlling unit..., 4. Practice conservation..., 5. Obey all state boating regulations..., 6. Rules established by campground operators must be observed..., and 7. The trip captain is authorized to exercise judgement in interpreting these rules....

Suggestions made for comfort, health, and safety were also printed as: life jackets are recommended..., for cold weather use a wet suit or bring a change of clothes in a

waterproof bag..., bring rain gear, first aid kit, and sun protection..., for overnight trips bring camping & cooking gear..., bring enough food & water for the trip's duration..., bring a spare paddle, bailing bucket & sponge..., advise the trip leader of any physical limitations you may have..., the trip is more fun if you are in good physical condition..., and have your gear packed so you can get on the water promptly....

Everything considered, the initial Club organizers put together a very extensive list of trips, safety guidelines and recommendations for enjoying the rivers and lakes that the group was planning to enjoy. Hank Annable has always been very involved in the progress of the Keel-Haulers.

He served as Club President in 1970 and was "gung-ho" those first years as evidenced by his active participation in nearly all of the trips the Club planned. This was undoubtedly caused by his undying lifelong love of the outdoors and search for adventure. One needs to understand that Hank, as a 15 year old living in Oberlin, drove a Ford Model A jalopy across the country to Seattle, WA with buddies Dick Gilbert and Jim Watson. He also took his new bride, Suzie, to the territory of Alaska in the early 1950's to begin their married lives together. So, he never had any trouble taking his young children to all of the outings he attended in the early Club years. Tom and Reeny learned very early (and young Chucky several years later) how to paddle the canoe and eventually the kayak. The open Grumman evolved to fiberglass whitewater boats, which became the family norm.

One of Hank's earliest whitewater paddling memories was when he and Tom paddled the Youghiogheny River for the first time in the summer of 1967. They joined up with members of the CCA (Canoe Cruisers Association) and were initiated into the world of whitewater canoeing. Hank and Tom's canvas covered Grumman was quite a contrast to the CCA members' sleek whitewater boats. Hank remembers swimming twice on the run from Ohiopyle to Stewarton. He also remembers camping right next to the falls in Ohiopyle.

Another of Hank's favorite memories includes the start of the Club's sponsorship of the annual canoe race. The first race was in August of 1968 across Sandusky Bay, a grueling 25 mile, 4 hour test of paddling endurance. The positive result of that race was an anticipated afternoon of fun on the Cedar Point midway. Unfortunately, everyone was too tired after the completion of the race to truly enjoy Cedar Point. That race evolved into the first annual Vermilion River Canoe Race in March, 1969. It is believed that this race is one of the longest, continually running canoe races in the United States. This is a tribute to the strong leadership of the Club.

Another event that Hank fondly remembers was the CCA sponsored whitewater weekend on the S. Fork of the N. Branch of the Potomac River in Petersburg, WV in 1970. Keel-Haulers were well represented in several race classes and a few medals were brought home by the Annables, Don Roper, Chuck Singer, and the Linns.

Some may remember when Hurricane Agnes flooded most of the eastern U.S. in early July, 1972. Hank certainly remembers it because he and several club members paddled the New River at flood stage. Hank & Tom Annable, Chuck Singer, Greg Green, Don Roper, and Alan Tummonds all battled the "Big" water. Hank remembers that Tom was the only person who didn't swim that day.

In September, 1973 the Club took over the CCA sponsored Youghiogheny slalom and down river whitewater racing event in Ohio, PA. This responsibility continued for several years. Hank remembers this event as being very difficult to coordinate and run because the Club had never experienced setting up a slalom course or judging such a competition.

Hank's best Club memories may be when he reminisces about the many wilderness canoeing trips he enjoyed over the decades. His participation in these trips started in 1974 with travels down the Little Abitibi and Missinaibi Rivers in Ontario, Canada. These trips were taken with sons Tom and Chuck, and old paddling buddies Loren Schafer, Marty Kopp, Don Roper, Rita Tessman, and Sasha Chudnovski, as well as a few newcomers to the wilderness paddling scene. Hank chuckles as he remembers his old friend, Chuck Tummonds, once telling him, "Hank, you don't take bush country trips with people you don't know."



Marty Kopp, Tom Annable, Hank Annable, Loren Schafer & Sasha Chudnovski ~ 1986
Little Abitibi Wilderness Trip

Perhaps, Hank should have heeded this advice when he took his most memorable trip to the De Pas River wilderness area in Quebec, Canada in the summer of 1983. The trip covered approximately 300 miles and took five weeks to complete. Hank remembers losing about 15 lbs. of his body weight during the trip. Hank and Chuck

Annable paddled a Grumman canoe while Rita Tessman, Sasha Chudnovski, and Sasha's cousin, Mark Kechinal [sic], fabricated a raft made of 8 truck tire innertubes, and a PVC pipe frame with wood sapling cross members. According to Hank this was a challenging and difficult trip because of the inexperience of Sasha's cousin and the very harsh weather and paddling conditions.



Sasha Chudnovski, Rita Tessman & Mark Kechinal [sic] ~ 1983
De Pas Wilderness Trip

After hearing Hank recall the early years of the Club, this writer believes the Keel-Haulers would not have continued to exist without his active participation and guidance. He certainly enjoyed the many trips he took and he relishes the many friendships he made over the last fifty years.

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still in need of articles.....Thanks!

From John Kobak:

I propose that each month under this same 50 year title, [Old time Club Members](#) or anyone else, post a story from the old days. Please send Kelly a story each month and keep this going until next spring.

[Where in the World is Kobak Now](#)

Conservation Update From Jim Hunt

Legislative Update - LWCF & Hydropower Bill

Update from American Whitewater - December 22nd

H.R. 8 - Hydropower Legislation

Background: H.R. 8 is a comprehensive energy bill that has some very troubling implications for rivers with private and municipal hydropower dams. The hydropower provisions of the bill make it harder to protect and restore rivers impacted by hydropower dams by allowing operators to ignore federal and state laws that protect water quality, endangered species, fish, wildlife, recreation and public lands. It strips states and Native American tribes of their existing authority to hold dam owners accountable for pollution and damage to local rivers and communities, as well as federal agencies to protect fish and other aquatic species. It also would have made it easier to build new dams on freely flowing rivers.

Update: The House passed H.R. 8 on December 3rd. Your efforts DID make a difference though, and hope is not lost for the future. The outcry from the paddling community was strong (over 700 of you reached out to your Representatives in a 24 hour period before the vote), stirring a lot of controversy around the hydropower provisions. The bill passed on nearly a party line vote, and the hydropower industry's effort to make this a bipartisan initiative largely flopped. The bill goes to the Senate next, and this controversy will make it more difficult for the hydropower provisions to move forward.

Additionally, the Obama Administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy noting that the President would likely veto the bill in its current form, in large part because of the hydropower provisions. The SAP states that H.R. 8 would "undermine the current hydropower licensing regulatory process...that works to minimize negative impacts associated with the siting of hydropower projects, including negative impacts on safety, fish and wildlife, water quality and conservation, and a range of additional natural resources and cultural values." It certainly is an incredible achievement to have the President single out this portion of the bill.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Background: As "America's best conservation program," the LWCF has helped to build trails, parks, river access, trailheads and so much more for over 50 years in all

50 states. This vital program has funded key river access points on Washington's White Salmon and Green Rivers, Idaho's Salmon River, Colorado's Arkansas River, Georgia's Chattooga River, and dozens of others across the country.

LWCF uses a portion of the royalties from off-shore oil and gas leasing to fund outdoor recreation and conservation projects, and was set to expire on September 30th, 2015. American Whitewater's members and other outdoor enthusiasts wrote to their Congressional Representatives in support of LWCF, and AW staff and members visited D.C. to highlight its value.

Update: Despite having broad bi-partisan support, Congress let the LWCF expire. Shortly afterwards, Representative Rob Bishop (R_UT) introduced a zombie LWCF bill that would have made the program a shell of its former self. The overall outcry from the outdoor recreation community was huge. Fortunately, Congress took note and reauthorized the program for 3 years at \$450 million in the Omnibus bill it recently passed. Although this is 1/2 the amount that LWCF was historically slated to receive (\$900 million) and is a temporary solution, we see this as a pretty great first step. In the current political climate and with a zombie bill in the works, it's great news that the program still looks a lot like its former self. Plus, \$450 million is actually 50% more than the fund has seen in the last few years.

KHCC Trip Schedule 2016 By Dennis Dukeman

Preliminary 2016 Trip Schedule

We need more organizers - Please check the schedule for open trips and volunteer.

Then contact: [Dennis Dukeman](mailto:ddukeman@neo.rr.com) . . . 330-858-6270 or at ddukeman@neo.rr.com

February				
2/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 -10:45 AM		John Banach	330-606-5032
2/6	Ohiopyle Winterfest & Paddle the (4) Loop (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
2/20,27	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
2/13,27	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
2/27	Club Get-Together at the Fox & Hound Restaurant in Mayfield Hts after roll session at 6:30 PM, everyone welcome.		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483

Make sure your boats are CLEAN inside and out when you go to any of the three pools for roll sessions. We do not want to lose our pool sessions. See website link for the most up to date information. <http://www.keelhauler.org/Instruction/#pool>

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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. 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 **2/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

701 Forrest Ave.

Geneva, IL 60134

peetzaguy@aol.com

February, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news



MARCH, 2016



Next Club Meeting

is on March 8th at the Middleburg Heights Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd.

Doors open at 7:00p.m., Meeting is at 8:00p.m.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: Dragon Boat presentation by the
Cleveland Dragon Boat Association

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT By Karl M. Nelson



It was a warm and sunny weekend with the smell of skunks in the air. Ahhh—the fragrance of spring in Ohio. Other signs of spring are the buzzards returning to Hinckley—though I have never heard from where they are returning.

Spring also means that some of us will be anxious to get back in our boats for that first float of 2016. That New Year's Resolution of getting to a roll session didn't work out very well.

One of the items on the ACA Paddle Safely list is to always wear a properly-fitted lifejacket while on the water. Which reminds me of a story. When my daughter was in second grade, one of the classroom assignments was to write what made a sailboat go. She wrote: a lifejacket. On family camping trips in Alabama, we had always told her: "The boat won't go if you don't have your lifejacket on."

The properly-fitted portion may be a bit more difficult. If you are still carrying around some of those Christmas cookies and have changed from a XL to a XXL, last year's PFD may be a bit tough to zip, especially if you are wearing a fleece sweater for those early cool weather paddling experiences. You may want to check it out before getting to the put-in and find you can't suck it in enough to zip it up. That would suck.

The first club meeting of the spring 2016 season is scheduled for March 8 at the Middleburg Heights Community Center. We do have to ratify the 2016 budget approved by the Board. There will also be a presentation on Dragon Boats by a representative from the Cleveland Dragon Boat Association. I hope to see many of you there.

Monthly Treasurer's Report

By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report - February 12, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 275.20
CD 1077	\$2, 272.77
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 253.09</u>
CD'S	\$6, 801.06

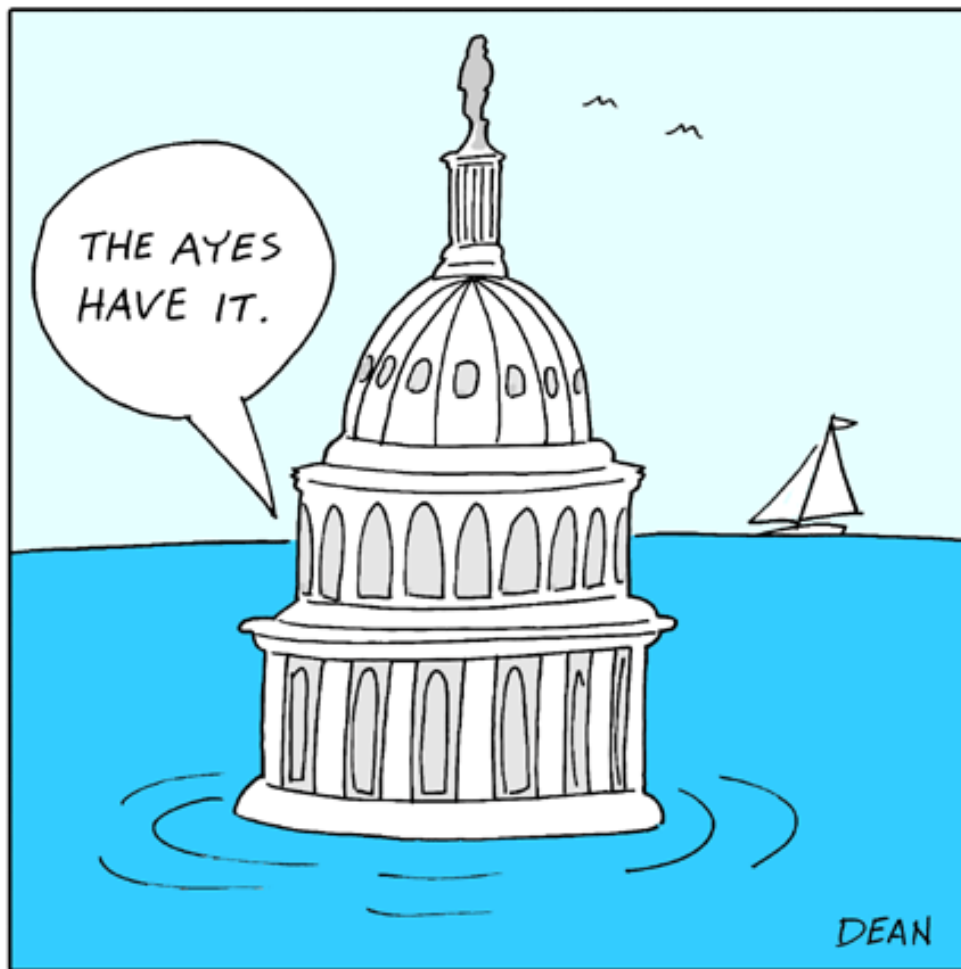
Checking	<u>\$7, 131.13</u>
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<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,932.19</u>
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Yearbook 2016 printing and distribution was paid.

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES
From Marcia Karchmer, Secretary
February, 2016

No meeting minutes to report since there was no meeting in February!



Congress acts to reduce greenhouse gases.

By Dean Norman

Conservation Issues By Jim Hunt

It's Permit Season!

posted December 30, 2015, by Thomas O'Keefe - AW



It's now time to start thinking about multi-day trips for next year and there are several great opportunities on Western Rivers. Many of these rivers require you to fill out a lottery application and deadlines are coming up. Check our permit database for the information and links to agency sites with detailed instructions and applications you can download.

Note that you can find this list at any time from the main home page on our website by selecting the River Info tab and scrolling down to Permit Information (not also the tab to access our calendar of scheduled whitewater releases that we are populating for 2016).

American Whitewater's River Permit Database:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/list-permits/>

Paddlers Speak Up For Maryland's Upper Yough posted January 29, 2016, by Charlie Walbridge



Paddlers made a great showing at the January 28th Deep Creek Watershed Planning Meeting in McHenry, MD. Releases from Deep Creek Lake that support paddling on the Upper Youghioghenzy River have been under attack by homeowners on backwater lots who are left high and dry during droughts. Friendsville town councilman Jess Whittemore and Upper Yough outfitter Roger Zbell have been ably representing whitewater paddlers for years. They know the river and dam inside out! Their goal has been to see that upstream and downstream interests are fairly treated, and that in low water periods the pain is shared fairly by all stakeholders. Jess told me that the presence of so many boaters, especially those who own property in Garrett County, made a strong impression on the County Commissioners. They were also impressed by the many thoughtful emails received from paddlers throughout the East. This will put us in a good position for the 2019 relicensing. Thanks to Friendsville paddler and attorney Bob Allen for representing American Whitewater. Jeff Macklin was there and snapped this photo.

Comments **were** taken until February 6th:
Send comments to:
Garrett County Commissioners
Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan
email: knull@garrettcountry.org
Use heading: Deep Creek Water Management Plan

Please copy: jess@immersionresearch.com

Please share this post with like minded friends

Here's a link to the plan; see Goal #12 on page 44, which calls for fair treatment of all users:

www.dnr.state.md.us/ccs/pdfs/dclwmp/100114_DCW_Plan.pdf?utm_source=Deep+Cr+eek+Watershed+Management+Support&utm_campaign=WMP+Hearing+support&utm_medium=email

Some talking points

Start by telling who you are, your profession, connection to the area (property ownership) and what the river means to you. Then:

1) The Upper Youghiogheny River is the most popular advanced to expert whitewater run on the East Coast thanks to regular summer whitewater releases

2) Garret County's outdoor recreation goes beyond the lake to paddling, hiking, climbing, biking, hunting and fishing all over the region. There is plenty of water for lake boating even in times of drought except at seasonal backwater lots.

3) The lake is almost fully developed and we need to spread the economic benefits to other areas like Friendsville. Many paddlers have bought homes in the Garrett County; we all patronize nearby restaurant and lodging establishments.

4) We strongly support Goal 12 in the new management plan, which treats all stakeholders including lake boating, fishing, and whitewater paddling.

AW supports the plan and the work of Friendsville residents Jess Whittemore and Roger Zbell to represent whitewater interests.

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still in need of articles.....Thanks!

From John Kobak: I propose that each month under this same 50 year title, [Old time Club Members](#) or anyone else, post a story from the old days. Please send Kelly a story each month and keep this going until next spring.

[Where in the World is Kobak Now](#)

**Friends of the Cheat will turn your used treasures into
cleaner water!**

Cheat Fest 2016 will feature The Treasure Cove, a pay-what-you-want booth. We are accepting donated well-loved and preserved treasures that need a new home.

What are you going to do with that canoe in the garage that you haven't used in ten years, that bike that your little tike outgrew, the DVDs and CDs that you have digitized?

If you are interested in donating your used treasures to Friends of the Cheat, please email treasure@cheat.org.

2016 CHEAT FEST BOOTH:
THE TREASURE COVE

—ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS ANOTHER'S TREASURE!!

Now Accepting Donations for a Pay-What-You-Want Booth

- Well Loved & Well Preserved Only
- Numerous Drop-Off Locations
- Pick-Ups Possible
- Early Donations Appreciated

- Paddling Gear
- Camping Items
- Music & Movies
- Books
- Home Items
- Memorabilia

ALL PROCEEDS TO FOC

email treasure@cheat.org with questions and
to arrange donation of your item.

—Let's not Haggle, Let's Paddle

Vermilion River Race By Jon Reising

There will be a river clean up/ paddle to check for tree issues on **March 26th**. We will meet at Shoepfle Garden in Birmingham at 10:30. I would greatly appreciate having some help. Please give me a call.

Jon Reising for details 440-967-9507

The waiver and liability form has been updated this year. Please use the new form. Links to follow.

March 26th; Vermilion River Race Cleanup, OH

April 3rd; 48th Annual Vermilion River Race, OH

This is our club's 48th annual race, one of the oldest in the US. The rapids are an easy class I , and the race is appropriate for novice to expert racers as well as recreational and sea kayaks. We encourage families and small groups who want to race together. This race is a great opportunity to shake the cobs off your muscles and get ready for the paddling season.

Please check Rules & Application for change in classes and rules.

We have added a new class for you **Stand Up Paddle Boarders**

Be sure your Ohio boat registration is up-to-date.

Water level is critical, the race will only be held on this section of the river if the [USGS Gauge](#) is between 2.8 to 6 feet. If it's too low, the race will be moved downstream to start and finish at the South Street Boat Launch Ramp on West River road in Vermilion. If it's too high it will be scheduled for April 10, 2016.

Jon Reising - Race Chairman .. mnmsguy@yahoo.com . . 440-967-9507

[On-Line Registration - Pay using Paypal or a credit card](#)

2016 Race Rules/Map, Application and Waiver are in PDF format

[Vermilion Race 2016 Rules and Map \(PDF\)](#)

[Vermilion Race 2016 Application \(PDF\)](#)

[Vermilion Race 2016 Waiver \(PDF\)](#)

Keel-Hauler club members get a \$2 discount per person.



It all started with “Deliverance.” By Carl Homberg

I have been involved with water basically my whole life - swimming, fishing, boating, paddled a canoe maybe a few times on lakes. When I saw the movie Deliverance a whole world opened up and I thought paddling a canoe on moving water like that would be something I would love to try. Shortly after that I was driving west on the Ohio turnpike and on either the Vermillion or Huron river I saw canoes and realized that people did this locally here. Perhaps it was the Vermillion race.

I spoke of this with my cousin Ken Rubsam who said that he and his family had paddled the Grand River and there was a race there every year. Our family purchased our first canoe at Ohio Canoe and started doing some local rivers with the Rubsams and a canoe camping trip to Michigan. Ken and I decided we would enter the Grand River race and from there the Vermillion river race where Brian and I paddled and we were introduced to the Keelhaulers.

We joined the club in about 1977 and started to attend meetings. We were introduced to many great people and the sport of whitewater kayaking which looked to be exciting, dangerous and very appealing. Donna, Brian and I bought used kayaks

from club members to get started. Through John Kobak we bought paddling gear, made much of it using his kits and expert advice and were ready to start. Brians and my first whitewater trip was on a warm New Years day in I think 1978 on Rocky River with John Kobak, Bob Halsey, Denny Celinsik, Robby Schaffer and maybe others I can't remember. We had no idea how to roll but in Kobak's usual fashion of encouragement he said no problem you will do fine. I couldn't have imagined the "huge" whitewater and I had one swim but we survived and were hooked.

We attended roll sessions that winter and eventually all learned to roll. Since I had a C1 Bob Halsey was my instructor and my roll was about 20 per cent by the last session. Loren Schaffer was there with a cast on his foot and I talked to him and he said try the roll that I do. He explained it while standing on the side of the pool. I tried it and came right up and used it forever after. I have never seen another C1 paddler use it but it served me well through countless flips in all kinds of white water.

That spring and summer we went on club trips to Rocky River, Slippery Rock training session, the Yough-thought I was going to die- had great times and were introduced to many wonderful helpful people who were very patient with us, pulled us, boats, gear out of the river when we had problems. We camped with them-we had never camped before.

The next year we graduated to the Cheat, many Yough trips and very good times. Gayle, Eileen and Craig became proficient rafters & paddled with us.

We eventually got on to the Gauley, Upper Yough, Big Sandy and many other great rivers. This was in a very large part due to the great people of the Keelhaulers and the paddling community in general.

Brian and Gayle became river guides for Mountain Streams and Trails and through them we were introduced to many more very good boaters including the Friendsville guys who at that time were almost the only ones who paddled the Upper Yough. This was prior to John Kobak introducing, leading and instructing aprox 500 people down the Upper Yough. Now it's so over crowded that we have to find a small nitch amongst the hordes. We had many fun times with these guys and were introduced to some very unique characters- John Reagan, Phil Coleman, Roger and Nancy Zbel, Jesse Whitmore-most spectacular boater and boat builder, Keith Backlund- best wooden paddle crafter, and others. We had great times boating with these guys. When we would see how these guys paddled, I think it improved us also because they pushed the limits and were very inspiring.



Brian Homberg
Mezzana, Italy, 1993
KayakWorld Championships

Brian got into slalom racing and became very good at it. He made the US team several times and went to the World Championships several times.



Brian Homberg
Savage River, Md. Team Trials

The whole family is still paddling now down to 5 of our grand children. The grandchildren got so good so fast and are now paddling stuff that I never dreamed could be paddled or that I would ever think of paddling.

I have been paddling since 1979. We have gone on some spectacular paddling trips. John Kobak organized trips to Ecuador and Honduras - very exotic. We paddled the

Grand Canyon with a group of people that I think was put together from Heaven. This sport has taken us to places that unless you see from the river you have no idea of how spectacular they are.



Chuck Singer, Rio Quijos, Ecuador



Donna & Carl, Rio Quijos, Ecuador

The people in the paddling community are in my opinion a very special group. We share a sport where everyone even perfect strangers look out for everyone else. There is danger involved. I have had close calls but fortunately there was someone there who would step up and even if they put themselves in danger came through and I am still here to tell about it. We share this responsibility and I hope it always continues to be the same. I hope I am able to continue in this sport for a long time to come.



Carl Homberg, Kuntz Flume Rapid on the Gauley



Craig Homberg, Big Splat Rapid
Big Sandy River

Are You Ready? **By John Kobak**

Are you ready for the 2016 paddling season? There are lots of things to check over to make sure that when the snow melts and the rivers rise that you are ready for paddling.

First, the easy part. Check that all your gear is still serviceable, no holes in your spray skirt, no leaks in your float bags. Be sure they are secure and can't float out. Make sure your PFD has no bad wear spots or has any straps that are not secure. How is your helmet; no cracks, padding all intact? For early spring paddling wear a

beanie made out of wetsuit material or pile that fits comfortably under your helmet. If need be, you could have two sets of helmet pads that you can use with or without the beanie. Make sure you have warm synthetic clothing that you can layer to provide the thermal protection you will need. A shorty wet suit works great most of the year, providing you are layering. There is still time to purchase items at your local or mail order outfitters.

Now check all your kayak outfitting. Be sure the seat is in the correct location and the bolts are tightened so it does not move. Check your thigh pads and foot braces and make sure they are adjusted properly and your back band and straps are not about to fail.

Second, the hard part. Are you ready? We have 30 new members who have joined since the last season has ended. Everyone needs to come to some pool sessions to make sure they can roll and are comfortable trying multiple rolls. If you are from out of the NE Ohio area and can't make any of our three different indoor pool sessions, most big cities have pools available to kayakers. Ask around; use local message boards to find some that are close to your home. Don't wait until you are out in cold water to start your roll or swim practice.

Get physically fit! Do aerobic exercise. Lift weights. Do push-ups. Go to the pool and swim laps. I can guarantee you that as you get older it gets harder and harder to stay in shape and very easy to get out of shape. WW kayaking takes bursts of power to hit your lines. No strength, or fitness? You won't make the move.

Then evaluate your paddling and fitness skills with our [Self Rating System](#). Check out the difficulty of the rivers that you would like to paddle to see if your skills match these rivers. There are two Southern trips this spring. These intermediate trips are planned to start with easier rivers and get on more difficult ones as the week progresses. This is the fastest way to increase your paddling skills.

Want to get your paddling fitness improved and do it on easy whitewater? Come out the Sunday after Easter and paddle in our [48th Annual Vermilion River Race](#). This will give you confidence to start your early spring paddling. Don't worry about what place you finish, just compare your race time with your previous races or with your paddling buddies.

Watch for impromptu Slippery Rock trips on our [Message Board](#). This river can be run as a day trip for most of our club members and has good water quality, nice scenery and great WW in order for you to learn advanced skills. Most club members will assist you and make sure you get down the river section that matches your skills successfully. Our schedule this year does not list a lot of Slippery Rock trips, but I would say someone from the club will be paddling every spring weekend when the water level is good.

All you newer paddlers will find lots of people that are at about the same place in the learning curve and you will make friendships that will last for years. The more experienced members will be happy to help you grow your skills so that they no longer will have to rescue you. Some of you will far exceed the skills of your early teachers if you stay fit and paddle often.

So it's all up to you, get out there and paddle. SYOTR

We need more organizers - Help!
Check Schedule and
then contact: [Dennis Dukeman](#) . . . 330-858-6270

March	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
3/5,12	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
3/8	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
3/12	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
3/12,13	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
3/12-20	Southern Rivers - TN, NC	22-32	Needs organizer	
3/19	(3) Cuyahoga River, Upper or Lower Gorge (OH) Water Level dependent	20-28	Needs organizer	
3/26,27	WV Class V Creeking	>30	John Garcia	440-777-6077
3/26	(1) Vermillion River Race Cleanup	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
April	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
4/3	(1) Vermilion Race (OH) Alternate Date 4/10	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
4/9	(1) Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	Doug Lyons	740-317-7007
4/9,10	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
4/9,10	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
4/8-16	(4) Southern Rivers Trip TN,NC,SC,GA	22-32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
4/12	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
4/15	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

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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 **April issue of the newsletter is **3/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)

March, 2016



Keelhauler's

Ka-news

APRIL, 2016



Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday, April 12th

at the Middleburg Heights Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd.

Doors open at 7:00p.m., Meeting is at 8:00p.m.

Program: Freestyle Canoeing

Presentation by Bob and Elaine Mravetz

FreeStyle Canoeing is the "art and science" of quiet water paddling with emphasize on smooth, efficient flatwater paddling and precision boat control. There are several opportunities to observe freestyle canoeing locally.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Karl M. Nelson
Kayaking Is Dead! Long Live Kayaking!



Those of us who have paddled on the Lower Yough for over a decade have commented on the decreasing number of boaters on the river. As Jack says: "Saturdays are like what Thursdays used to be."

The phenomena has been addressed by Doug Ammons in RAPID magazine. In *Why Going Bigger Makes the Whitewater World Smaller*¹ he writes: "Whitewater kayaking can survive without class V daredevils, it can't survive without beginners and intermediates." He continues the discourse in *Popularity Contested*². He concludes that "if we're going to entice more people to kayak, we might start by showing them how fun, safe and accessible it can be, instead of how gnarly we are."

The decline in the popularity of kayaking is mirrored in the history of the Payette River Games. When the [Payette River Games](#) started in 2013, it quickly grew to be one of the largest river sporting events in the country, attracting hundreds of athletes—kayakers, stand up paddleboarders and river surfers alike—and offering some of the largest purses worldwide.

In 2014, the games, which take over Kelly's Whitewater Park in Cascade, ID for three days each June, offered a \$100,000 in prize money for kayakers and SUPers.

In 2015, organizers decided to scale back, focusing on stand up paddleboarding only and [nixing kayak events](#). The purse dropped to \$50,000 and left the kayaking community feeling a mix of understanding and downright bitterness.³

¹ <https://www.rapidmedia.com/rapid/categories/departments/5380-why-going-bigger-makes-our-world-smaller.html>

² <http://content.yudu.com/web/oufm/0At4qo/RP201602/flash/resources/6.htm>

³ <http://www.boiseweekly.com/boise/payette-river-games-are-no-more/Content?oid=3596512>

The Board has been concerned about this. In an attempt to recruit new paddlers, we have reached out to several Beginning and Intermediate Boater Paddling Programs (See the Instruction page). We may need to come up with a more intentional evangelism program. I hope to be able to attend several of the kayak/canoeing events hosted by Stark Parks to extol the fun, safety (no stories about my breaking a leg on the river) and accessibility of boating.

**Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report - March 20, 2016**

CD 0402	\$2, 275.87
CD 1077	\$2, 273.44
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 253.76</u>
CD'S	\$6, 803.07

Checking	<u>\$7 ,185.36</u>
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<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,988.43</u>
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**KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES
From Marcia Karchmer, Secretary
March 8, 2016**

Minutes: March 8, 2016 Meeting

Present: 14; Guests: 3: Dan/Mary, Scott: whitewater interest; Matt: sea kayaking interest west side.

Old business: none.

New Business:

Budget: Sam Reynolds: approved and seconded.

Vermilion River Race: March 26-River Cleanup; April 3-48th Annual Race,
April 10-High Water Date. Help needed: contact Race Chairman:
John Reising at mnmsguy@yahoo.com, or 440-967-9507.

2016 Trip Organizers Needed: Call Dennis Dukeman: 330-858-6270.

Dragon Boat Presentation: Cleveland Dragon Boat Association, Michael Ciccarello,
Volunteer Program/Festival Coordinator, Located at Rivergate Park: Merwin's
Wharf put-in. CLEBA.org

Meeting ended at 9 pm.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2016; 7:30 pm. Middleburg Hts. Community Center.

**Vermilion River Race
By Jon Reising**

Please come and participate in the race this year. If you can offer some help,
please give me a call.

Thank you,

Jon Reising - Race Chairman .. mnmsguy@yahoo.com . . 440-967-9507

April 3rd; 48th Annual Vermilion River Race, OH

This is our club's 48th annual race, one of the oldest in the US. The rapids are an
easy class I, and the race is appropriate for novice to expert racers as well as
recreational and sea kayaks. We encourage families and small groups who want to
race together. This race is a great opportunity to shake the cobs off your muscles
and get ready for the paddling season.

Water level is critical as the race will only be held on this section of the river if the [USGS Gauge](#) is between 2.8 to 6 feet. If it's too low, the race will be moved downstream to start and finish at the South Street Boat Launch Ramp on West River road in Vermilion. If it's too high it will be scheduled for April 10, 2016.

[On-Line Registration](#) - Pay using [Paypal](#) or a credit card,

Keel-Hauler club members get a \$2 discount per person.

[Vermilion Race 2016 Rules and Map \(PDF\)](#) [Vermilion Race 2016 Application \(PDF\)](#)

[Vermilion Race 2016 Waiver \(PDF\)](#)

Conservation Issues By Jim Hunt

Gorge Dam removal on Cuyahoga River between Akron and Cuyahoga Falls is moving forward with federal blessing
By Bob Downing, Beacon Journal staff writer



The Gorge Dam on the Cuyahoga River between Akron and Cuyahoga Falls could be coming down in 2019.

That surprising news came from Bill Zawiski of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, who announced Tuesday that the federal government has agreed to provide 65 percent of the \$70 million cost to remove the 57-foot-high dam and deal with sediments behind it.

The project, including sediment removal, will be funded by \$45.5 million in federal Great Lakes cleanup funds, he said at a meeting of the Summit Metro Parks commissioners.

The federal EPA recently gave its blessing to proceed at a meeting of parties involved in cleaning up 43 contaminated spots on the Great Lakes. The Cuyahoga River from Akron to Cleveland is on that national priority list.

The balance of \$24.5 million will be paid by the Ohio EPA and local partners and those contributions can include in-kind services, such as land donations or engineering work, he said.

Zawiski said the long-discussed proposal to remove the dam inside the Gorge Metro Park is suddenly "a viable plan" for the first time and the plan is starting to move forward.

Removing the dam, plus another in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, would create 60 miles of a free-flowing and healthier Cuyahoga River from Lake Erie to the Lake Rockwell dam north of Kent in Portage County.

The dam removal would be a "tremendous improvement ecologically," he said.

The news that the dam might be coming down delighted Gary Whidden of Cuyahoga Falls.

"I'm really excited by that happening," he said. "It's wonderful and I love it. People have been working on taking the dam down for a long, long time. ... All of Northeast Ohio will benefit from such a project."

"That is really wonderful that the dam coming down is moving forward," said Elaine Marsh of Bath Township, a spokeswoman for the Friends of the Crooked River, a grass-roots group devoted to the Cuyahoga River.

She admitted that after years of discussion, it is strange to realize that the dam's days may be numbered.

"In the beginning, we weren't sure it would ever happen. It's almost surreal, but we are serenely happy. ... I am just delighted," she said.

Removing the dam in 2019 would also be a way for the Ohio and U.S. EPAs to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Cuyahoga River fire in Cleveland that triggered the modern environmental movement and led to the passage of the federal Clean Water Act, Zawiski said.

Zawiski took Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan to the site on Tuesday morning. Additional meetings with local stakeholders are being arranged. A meeting will be held in April when federal EPA officials from Chicago come to Northeast Ohio, he said.

Zawiski said he hopes that engineering plans to deal with slightly contaminated sediments behind the dam might be completed this year.

The sediments — 830,000 cubic yards, enough to fill the old Akron Rubber Bowl from floor to top four times — must be removed before the dam can come down.

Demolishing the dam would likely cost about \$12.5 million, with an additional \$57.5 million for sediment removal, according to estimates.

State and local partners would likely have to pay for the dam removal and site restoration.

Under the preliminary plan, a hydraulic dredge would likely be used to suck up the contaminated sediments behind the dam. They would then be piped $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream to near the Chuckery Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park off Cuyahoga Street in North Akron.

Sediments would be placed in giant, sock-like tubes and the water would drain off. The liquids would have to be collected and treated because of low-level contamination.

The plan calls for using 11 to 13 acres that are next to the park and owned by the city of Akron. It is a long-closed landfill.

The sediments would cover 38 football fields to a height of 10 feet.

The federal EPA spent about \$1 million to determine the sediment volume and the contamination level.

That preliminary plan was unveiled last September by Zawiski at a public meeting in Cuyahoga Falls.

It is unclear if the 429-foot-wide dam is owned by Akron-based FirstEnergy Corp. or Summit Metro Parks.

The dam was built in 1911-1912 by the Northern Ohio Traction & Light Co.

It generated electricity for its Akron trolley cars from a hydro facility near the dam. The hydro facilities were discontinued in 1958, largely because of the inadequate and unpredictable flows on the river.

Dams in Kent, Munroe Falls and two in Cuyahoga Falls have already been removed or modified in recent years to improve Cuyahoga River water quality.

Bob Downing can be reached at 330-996-3745 or bdowning@thebeaconjournal.com.

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Our Annual Southern River Trips

By John Kobak

Over the years this has become one of our most popular trips. **Dave Hoelter** and **Bill Ridgway**, who liked to race, had heard about an open canoe race on the Nantahala called the SE Championships each June. So in 1972 they went down there to race and surprised the southern open boaters by their skill and technique, taking home race medals.



Nantahala Slalom & DR Race

They told the club about it, so that in 1973 **Hank Annable** organized the first southern club trip. At that time there were lots of kids in the club so everyone headed down for the race and a one week trip with their families. There were 48 people in all that came down and we stayed at Lost Mine Campground. Some of the attendees were **Loren Schafer**, **Marty Kopp**, **Dick Priem**, **Jim Botamer**, **Chuck Singer**, **Dean Norman** and me. We raced in the slalom as well as the downriver race.

As **Carl Homberg** mentioned last month "It all started with Deliverance". **Hank** pointed out to us that the Chattooga, where Deliverance was filmed, was not that far away, so most of our group headed there and started on Section 2. **Dean Norman** took a group up to Section 0, which has been off limits to run for years since then. We next tackled Section 3 and 18 paddlers even tried Section 4. **Al Eland** was the only paddler who had paddled this section before so we were in for lots of adventure. **Chuck Singer** got caught in the killer hydraulic in Woodall Shoals,

but swam out, leaving his fiberglass kayak in there for 10 minutes until 3' of the bow broke off, ending Chuck's run for that day, and it was 5 years before he tried Section 4 again.

It took us 9 hours to run the river as we got caught up rescuing some rafters who swam the first two drops of 5 falls and then one ended up almost drowning in "Crack in the Rock" hydraulic, **Jim Botamer** pulled him out and revived him. The 4 rafters all walked to the lake. The club was hooked on coming south to paddle each year.



Priem and Kobak Families

In 1974 we had 51 people on the trip. **Peggy** and I paddled a decked C-2 on section 3. **Dick & Kathy Priem** and their 5 kids, all kayaked in their new home built fiberglass boats. In 1977 it was still a June trip and I led another big group. This was the first year that there was water in the Ocoee, as the wooden bypass flume had broken. This started the whole rafting and paddling the Ocoee. We didn't know the lines and didn't play and the water was not that high so we were unimpressed but 3 years later we put this river back on our annual schedule. This was the year that **Don Manson's** wife **Nancy** rolled their van over, on the road driving up to the top Nantahala. Luckily no one was hurt. This also was the first year we paddled the Nolichucky on our way home.



Dick Priem, Bob Halsey & Brian Sammon



Jeff Kobak 14 years old at Bull Sluice photo by Sammon

I paddled the Chattooga a few times while picking up boats at Perception's factory and they asked; "Why are you coming down in June, the best whitewater is in April". So in 1980 we moved what was to become our annual trip to Easter week. **Fred Robinson** decided to take a group down Five Falls in his large raft that year and got it stuck in the big hydraulic below "Crack in the Rock", it took a lot of ropes & people to get them out. **Elliott Drysdale** tried to paddle his kayak through and swam

out ok but his kayak surfed for 10 minutes. The river was 2.6', what we didn't know is that most of the locals didn't paddle it over 2'.

I can't remember what year that I had the worse swim of my life at Woodall Shoals. The 1.7' level encouraged our group to paddle right next to the big center hole. Each person must have moved a few inches to the left. I was last and way off course. I got stuck sideways in the hole and could not surf out in either direction. All my friends had cameras and throw ropes but didn't want to throw until I was out of my kayak. When I came out of the boat I got recycled twice until I dove to the bottom of the river and swam downstream as long as I could. I came up below the hole and grabbed onto a rope and was quickly rescued. I will never try that again.

In the 80's we alternated trip leaders from **Ron Montgomery** to **Chuck Singer** and back to me. We averaged about 20-30 paddlers on each of these trips. We honed a schedule that seemed to work well, especially for the intermediate paddlers. We started on The Nolichucky or French Broad depending on level, got to the Ocoee for an Easter Sunday run. We would start with an Easter egg hunt and a big pancake breakfast. We would then head to Section 3 & 4 of the Chattooga and back to rivers in TN like the Tellico or Little River.



Ron Montgomery

Our trip in 1991 was very exciting on the French Broad. The heavy rain had brought the level above 50,000 CFS. We had a group of intermediate paddlers. There were some easily avoidable huge hydraulics recirculating 55 gal drums and trees, deer were swimming by. Part way down, **Natasha Galvez** swam and wanted out and thought that the friendly guys on shore would give her a ride back to her car. They did, but every few miles they would stop and shoot up the trees with automatic weapons. She was scared to death but it worked out OK. Frank Bell's rapid was gone and the river at the takeout had come up almost to our car doors.

In 1995 we headed over to the Cumberland Plateau after the normal Chattooga trip and I got to paddle the Big South Fork with some paddlers from the Columbus AYH. In 1997 we added Daddy's Creek and Clear Creek and Emory to the BSF.



Dave Becker at Corkscrew

In 1998 our strong group ran the Watauga Gorge and we had groups on both Sat & Sun running the Tallulah Gorge. The 58' slopping falls called Oceana scared me to death but I made it. I decided this was the last time I would do this run.

In 1999 **Sue Whitney** lost her kayak running Five Falls. It must have stuck in "Crack in the Rock" and finally washed out 4 days later to be retrieved by a paddler from Atlanta.



Lunch on the Ocoee - 2000

On 2000's trip, or next time don't believe Kobak, when he says Daddy's Creek is open today. Everybody got tickets, except me, I hid in **Santo's** van, for trespassing in the Catoosa Turkey Hunt area.



In 2001-02 Elliott Drysdale led the trips



Brent Laubaugh on Wilson Creek



Dave Broer - Baby Falls of Tellico



John Kobak and Bob Nicholson on the Little River in 2003.

Lee Owen dislocated his shoulder on this run.



In 2004-05 **Michael Duvall** became the trip organizer. The 2004 trip got snowed out on the Little River and the 2005 trip had the most excitement we ever had on a trip. We had a communication problem when I signaled **Bob Nicholson** to wait before attempting to run Jaw Bone, so I could set up a throw line above Sock-em-Dog. He came before I could get set, flipped and swam all the way down to Sock-em-Dog where he went over the drop and shattered his leg on a rock. **Eric Roush** was an EMT who splinted Bob's leg while I raced out with **Joe Yilek** to get a cell signal and call 911. They sent in a rescue team by boat to get Bob to the local hospital.

Lots of new friendships have been formed on these long trips and paddler's skills have increased by paddling each day with a group of safe advanced paddlers. If you want more pictures and trip details, since 1992 the newsletter has had good articles posted, here are the links to each of those trip reports.

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1992](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1994](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1995](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1996](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1998](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 1999](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2000](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2001](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2002](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2003](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2004](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2005](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2006](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2007](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2008](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2011](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2012](#)

[Southern Rivers Trip - 2013](#)

For the last few years there has been more than one southern trip on our schedule because of people having different spring breaks and some people's tolerance to cold weather. There are also trips for different paddling skills.

So I hope that more people follow the tradition and get out on future trips now that gas prices are so cheap.

We need more organizers - Help! There are a lot of trips that need a leader. Please check the schedule, pick one, and then contact: [Dennis Dukeman](#) 330-858-6270

April	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
4/2	(1) Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
4/3	(1) Vermilion Race (OH) Alternate Date 4/10	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
4/9	(1) Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	Doug Lyons	740-317-7007
4/9,10	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
4/9,10	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
4/8-16	(4) Southern Rivers Trip TN,NC,SC,GA	22-32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
4/12	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
4/15	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
4/16	(1) Grand River (OH)	SK/FW	Andy Gross	216-321-9284
4/16	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
4/16,17	(5) Middle Fork & Tygart (WV)	29	Needs organizer	
4/22	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
4/23	Cuyahoga River-Waves Section, Lower Gorge & Boater-X Race (OH)	12-26	Tommy Piros	440-710-4628
4/23	(1) Grand River Race	SK/FW	Brian Davidson	440-358-7275
4/23,24	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
4/23,24	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Anne Kmieck	216-371-8250
4/29	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
4/25	(3) Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge (OH)	20	Needs organizer	
4/30	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Katie & Joe Boyd	740-632-6725
May	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
5/1	(5) Cheat River Race Clinic (WV)	26	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/6	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/6,7	Upper Yough (MD) or Big Sandy or Tygart (WV)	32	Needs organizer	
5/7,8	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
5/7,8	Cheat Fest Weekend (WV)	18-26	Needs organizer	
5/8	(3) Cheat Narrows (WV)	18	Phil/Jen Raber	740-498-7063
5/10	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
5/13	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
5/14	(1) Kokosing River (OH)	FW	Tom Kaylor	901-219-4236
5/14,15	(5) Intro to the Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/14,15	(5) Cheat Canyon, Cranberry or Upper Meadow (WV) Be sure to contact Dave for river choice.	26	Dave Herron	513-681-4075
5/14,15	(3) Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman(PA)	18	Jerry Spence	614-561-3198
5/21	RiverDay 2015 Events Friends of the Crooked River (OH)		Elaine Marsh	330-328-3909
5/20-22	(4) Stonycreek Rendezvous (PA)	21	Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
5/21,22	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit	23	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **May issue of the newsletter is **4/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com

April, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news MAY, 2016



Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday, May 10th

at the Middleburg Heights Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd.
Doors open at 7:00p.m., Meeting is at 7:30p.m.

Program: History of the Upper Yough

Chris Preperato wrote about how all the rapids were named and made a series of short videos interviewing the early paddlers of the Upper Yough river in MD. John Kobak compiled those videos into one 30 minute video and will relate some of his experience on the river for the past 35 years.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl M. Nelson



Sounds of Spring....

In the early morning, the chirping birds trumpet their arrival as we awaken from the Land of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod.

In the early afternoon, the sound of chainsaws and lawn mowers keep us from our siestas.

The pale paddlers arrive at the put-in and greet each other.

Boats slide down the hill.

There is the sound of Gorilla Tape being ripped to patch the PFDs. The zombies in the basement did not fix them after they were last used.

Paddles splash as the current sweep us downstream.

A ledge—power stroke on the lip—hip thrust—BOOF!!

The first boof of spring!

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

April 12, 2016

Minutes: April 12, 2016; 7:30pm

Present: 7 members, 4 guests

Old Business:

Vermilion Race made over \$649 with expenses of \$249. 38 paddlers raced (7 no shows).

John Kobak: Current membership: 265

New Business: none

Program: Obedience Training Your Boat
Bob and Elaine Mravetz, ACA, Instructor Trainers, LB Freestyle Canoeing
Meeting adjourned: 9 pm
Next meeting: May 10, Middleburg Hts. Community Center
Submitted by: Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

**Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report - April 21, 2016**

CD 0402	\$2, 276.50
CD 1077	\$2, 274.07
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 254.38</u>
CD'S	\$6, 804.95

Checking \$5, 405.30

Total \$12,210.25

Since the last report, Keelhaulers donated \$2250.00 to 10 conservation groups!
The individual donations were listed in the budget and approved by the Board
and general membership.

The Vermilion River Race was directed by Jon Reising.
His report is following.

**Vermilion River Race
Treasurer Report
By Jon Reising and Robert Bair**

2016 Vermilion Race Report

INCOME

Refreshment Stand \$38.10

Registration Fees \$649.04

TOTAL INCOME \$687.14

EXPENSES

Awards \$0.00 Purchased in 2015

Insurance \$142.50 U.S. Canoe Association

Membership \$30.00 U.S. Canoe Association

Miscellaneous \$62.34 Three Stop Watches
 \$11.99 Hard Stock Cards

Postage \$2.30

Refreshments \$38.65

TOTAL EXPENSES \$287.78

OVERALL TOTAL \$399.36

**Jon Reising-Race Chairman
Robert Bair-Concessions**

Vermilion River Race
By Jon Reising

2016 Vermilion River Race Results

	Class	Racer(s)	Bib #	Time	Position
	Class 0 - No Class Assignment				
		Warchol, Ronald & Warchol, Matthew	98	1:45:59	1
	Class 2 - C-2 Mixed/Women				
		Brax, Debbie & Streb, Ken	205	1:11:39	1
		Masek, Dan & Masek, Sarah	212	1:15:54	2
		Markwell, Walter & Markwell, Jamie	83	1:22:15	3
	Class 3 - C-2 Men's Standard				
		Morgan, Kevin & Baird, Robert	96	1:20:01	1
		Schmidt, Eric & Goliat, Dan	86	1:27:59	2
		Uhas, Cody & Steiner, Blair	82	1:30:58	3
		Fedor, Nicholas & Good, Anthony	84	1:36:58	4
	Class 6 - C-1 Canoe				
		Schneider, Kenneth	207	1:24:41	1
	Class 8 - K-1 Short Men <11.5'				
		Dohanos, Lee	209	1:24:40	1
		Rogers, John	89	1:25:11	2
		Stoll, Mike	78	1:26:09	3
		Parker, Jim	99	1:27:47	4
		Park, Jim	201	1:30:58	5
		Nergelovic, Charles	100	1:32:33	6
		Nahorn, Matthew	91	dnr	dnr
	Class 9 - K-1 Short Women <11.5'				
		Courtright, Christine	90	1:48:36	1
	Class 10 - K-1 Men <14.5'				
		Crocker, Ross	203	1:07:40	1
		Johnson, Kurt	74	1:41:23	2

		Johnson, Foster	80	dnr	dnr
		Class 11 - K-1 Women >11.5'			
		Banks, Stacey	73	dnr	dnr
		Class 12 - K-1 Senior >49, <14.5'			
		Wadsworth, Phillip	88	1:16:44	1
		Hebert, Larry	208	1:25:46	2
		Wondrak, Bob	202	1:31:55	3
		Widman, Richard	81	dnr	dnr

dnr – Did Not Run

	Class	Racer(s)	Bib #	Time	Position
		Class 13 - K-1 Long Men >14.5'			
		White, Joe	94	1:06:57	1
		Safran, Mike	204	1:14:15	2
		Slough, Eric	211	1:14:51	3
		Burling II, Lon	210	1:35:38	4
		Class 14 - K-1 Long Senior >49, >14.5'			
		McCrate, Kelley	87	1:16:18	1
		Boyce, John	97	1:17:42	2
		Hull, Thomas	93	1:33:01	3
		Tabb, Ronald	76	dnr	dnr
		Lawrence, Bob	77	dnr	dnr
		Class 15 - K-1 Senior Women >49, >11.5'			
		Loy, Jana	85	1:19:29	1
		Westricr, Karen	206	1:30:39	2
		Schneider, Audrey	75	dnr	dnr

**The 48th Annual Keel Haulers
Vermilion River is now in the
history books.**



The weather was cold but dry. We had enough water for the first time in years to hold the race in Birmingham Ohio from Schoepfle Gardens to Mill Hollow which is where the race is when the river level is high enough.

The following pictures are of contestants that finished first in their respective classes.



Class 10 - K-1 Men <14.5'



Class 2 - C-2 Mixed Man/Woman

We had a total of 31 boats and 39 people race. We had a number of no shows that chose not to come for varying reasons.



Class 3 - C-2 Men's Standard

I would like to thank each and every one of the many volunteers that helped this year to make the race possible.



Class 15 - K-1 Senior Women >49, >11.5'

We will be doing some investigating as how it might be possible to get back up to the 100 mark as far as racers go to make the race a little more competitive for some of the classes.

Thank you one and all for racing and helping.



Finish Line & Scoring Crew

Jon Reising Race Chairman

Conservation Issues By Jim Hunt

From American Whitewater:

Friendsville and AW Prepare for The 2016 Release Season
by Charlie Walbridge



As the whitewater release season begins, it's time to celebrate our partnership with the town of Friendsville, MD, the takeout for the popular Upper Youghiogheny River. The town has a population of around 500 and hosts over 300 paddlers on a busy weekend. American Whitewater has worked closely with the town for many years, helping to negotiate the releases and manage parking and other issues. Many of us have been enjoying the place for years and were pleased to help accommodate the crowds.

The new parking area is now entering its second season. Paddlers raised \$25,000 in seed money and a \$10,000 in-kind donation which in turn attracted \$160,000 in grants to build it. Since maintaining this facility would be a significant burden on the town budget Don Millard, a paddler from Fort Hill, PA, has once again taken over mowing both here and at Sang Run. Thanks to his work river access fees are unusually low: the town lot is free, and American Whitewater's suggested Sang Run donation of \$2 has remained unchanged since we started this work over a decade ago.

Over this past winter local outfitter Roger Zbel and Friendsville councilman Jess Whittemore represented river interests to state and county officials. They made sure that whitewater sport was recognized in the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan and reminded everyone of the value of these releases to the Town. Their in-depth knowledge of the river and dam operations was a huge asset here! Town Council, under the leadership of Mayor Spencer Schlosnagle, was extremely supportive throughout. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible!

The season opens on Friday, April 15 and the dam releases from 10 AM to 1 PM every Friday thereafter. The first full weekend is Friday, Saturday, and Monday May 6-9; Cheat Fest Weekend! Please remember to observe the usual courtesies when in town: Use the rest rooms and change facilities at the parking area. Don't drink alcohol in public and avoid loud, rowdy behavior that would disturb nearby residents. Never park in residential areas along the river. Stay on the gravel in the parking lot as much as possible, especially when the ground is wet. And take time to patronize the many businesses in town who are eagerly awaiting your arrival.

For more information on water releases heck the Deep Creek Hydro Web Site:

https://www.brookfieldrenewable.com/content/deep_creek_hydro/whitewater_schedule-43717.html



50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Two Articles
By Don and Cher Manson

Woodall Shoals and J K

Well what can I say about John that hasn't already been said or at least thought about. John 'Mr. Kayak' Kobak wanted to test our adrenaline one day on a Southern Rivers trip in the early 80's? We were paddling Section IV on the Chattooga. When we got to Woodall Shoals, a rapid with a history of swimmer, rafter and kayaker injuries and deaths through the years, we witnessed a harrowing swim thinking we might see our first fatality on a river trip!

Paddling down the river with no problems we scouted Woodall before running it, deciding where, exactly to run, to have the best chance of making it without being stuck or dumping in the hydraulic. There is a sneak route on river right but most of us were going to run the more difficult middle left marking the small wave we wanted to be on to just miss the major part of the hole. After running the rapid with no problem, I got out on river left to say hi to Cher and Scotty, my wife and son, who had hiked in with several others from the nearest road. I grabbed my throw rope - just in case anyone got in to trouble. Several other boaters came through with no problems. Then John approached, but a bit too close to the hole. We knew it was too far to the left and tried yelling to him but he had committed himself. He came over the hump and slipped solidly into the hole. He surfed for a bit - back and forth - dumped over and rolled, then a 2nd and maybe a 3rd or 4th time. Boaters were getting their throw bags - just in case he needed saved when he came far enough out of the hole. When he came out of his boat - both he and boat were circulating and recirculating...his boat finally came out. John wasn't ready to come out yet, and decided to stay in for a little more swimming and breathing exercise ...recirculating every 10-20 seconds. Woodall is a long hole and John would get to the point of being spit out and then was swept back into the keeper depths.

The distance to John in the hole was just too far for us to reach with the throw bags, so we had to wait until he came out of the hole. He played in there waayyy too long and we thought he was in serious trouble. After a few throw bags had been tossed - he wasn't watching for them - having too much fun swimming, breathing when he could and being swept back into the hole; this time he didn't surface for a much longer time. Finally, when he came back to the surface, he was at the bottom end of the hydraulic and coming out. But John, being John, thought he would test our mettle and see what we would think about him extending his swim in Woodall. When he surfaced he immediately began swimming **upstream** - right back toward *and into* the hole...**HE MADE IT !!!** ... recirculating a few more times.

Afterwards he claimed he was disoriented and didn't know which way was downstream. I know better. When he came up - I saw him look toward us... smile, and head right back into the hole. He finally washed to where someone laid a throw rope in front of him - he grabbed it and we hauled him in. I know he was in Woodall swimming for a number of minutes because after throwing my bag the 1st time I had enough time to re-stuff and throw it again.

I think our crew on shore was a lot more scared than Mr. Kayak - I know I had to go find a place to clean my shorts!!!

I just wish we had this swim on film (where were the Go Pros ?)



Don Manson - Bull Sluice



Lester Stumpe - Bull Sluice

Chattooga River - 1980 Southern Trip Crack in the Rock

Running the Chattooga Section IV - Five Falls area in the early 80's the river was on the high side. A number of kayaks and one raft with Fred Robinson, raft guide and raft owner, Cheryl Manson, my wife, Lester Stumpe, Marcia Mauter - Lester's girlfriend, Thury O'Conner and 2 others - a total of 7 in the 18' paddle raft. We were moseying down the river scouting some rapids; Fred took a long time - toooo much time scouting many of the rapids, most of which he was not going to have any trouble with in the raft. I think Fred was much more comfortable with a rowing frame on the raft - having more control with oars. We got down to the Crack and the hard boater's decided to scout since a boater had died in the rapid a week before. I jumped in my boat and ran 1st. Steep little drop between a single, big vertical log and rock. No problem. Elliot Drysdale followed, went vertical and upside down in the hole. He came out of his boat pretty quickly and his boat stayed in the keeper for a while, getting thrashed and spilling it's contents into river. Being the only one downstream, I began collecting the pieces and parts from his boat. Paddle, helmet, foodbag, airbags, sponge, etc. were scattering and floating downstream in the pool. Elliot was swimming to the starboard bank - so, I was throwing the stuff up on that shore. I was going for Elliot's boat when people began yelling to forget that, the raft was coming! Holy #@& here comes Fred, [et.al](#). Why were they running without waiting for an all clear - "it's OK!" Over they came... and stuck they got. The raft was at least upright with ? people in it ??? As they were surfing back and forth across the wide face at bottom of the drop I was

trying to count heads in the raft as they were bouncing around... several times I could only come up with **6 not seven !** Was someone caught in the hydraulic under the raft ? ***This was not good !***



Don Manson - Lesser Wesser - Nantahala

1980

Other boaters came down the left channel, beached their boats and throw lines came out from both shorelines. But, the distance was too far to effectively get them to the raft even when it surfed to their side of the hole. I got out on the starboard bank (river right) and realized the distance was too great to effectively throw. There were probably 3 paddlers on either side of river ready to throw lines, but to no avail. I got back into my boat and was really scared about the missing? 7th person. I think the only person in the raft that was being effective was Cheryl. She was always scrambling to the downstream side of raft with her paddle deep in the water - attempting to pull the raft downstream and out of the hole ! Others are bobbing around in the raft. You don't want to mess with this mama when she is mad - especially ***scared and mad !!!*** I have heard a few times that she screamed at Kobak, [et.al.](#) on the port bank to throw that @^#*&~\$% throw line and make it to them !!! At least a couple lines got to them - but the raft surfed back into the hole and people, both in the raft and/or on shore, were not able to hold on to their ends of the lines. Finally, one got to them from river left and was able to pull them to the edge of the hole. I got the nose of my boat up to the raft and Cher got my grab loop. I began back paddling as hard as I ever have... Partly because Cher was threatening, pleading, screaming at me to get them the hell out of there!!! We made it - wheeeww !!! I'm not sure if I was more scared that I would be sucked into the hole or what Cher would do to me if we didn't get them out of Crack in the Rock...***NOW !!!***



Cheryl Chimera (Manson) - Paddling Nantahala 1980

After counting - there were only 6 heads in the raft. Where's the 7th ??? Evidently Lester and Marcia made a good judgment call and she decided to walk the rapid rather than be the 7th paddler... There she was on shore ! I was really proud of Cheryl for having the presence of mind ? (that is scared sh-tless) to always be on the downstream side of the raft, with her paddle deep - reaching for the current trying to get them out of the hole. She does have a good survival instinct.

Running this rapid made for good stories around the table at the Clayton Hotel Restaurant (great buffet for hungry paddlers) and later around the campfire.

(For those who may have known Fred - he passed away 5 or 6 years ago near Trout Lake, Washington where he lived and Lester passed away 5 or 6 years ago in the Cleveland area.)



Savage R. - It's really hard paddling up a Sluice, eh ?



Don Manson - Tracy ? C-2 , Rich Huhn ? / Al Eland ?, Tom Braun - Lesser Wesser Which old timer thinks they know for sure - Rich or Al ??? 1980

The Real Florida

By John Kobak



This winter, for a big change, Peggy and I decided to spend our time in Florida instead of Mexico.

We have this nice drivable RV that we can load up our canoe and two bikes, while having all the comforts of home. We felt we could get much more exercise by canoeing and biking in Florida while enjoying what I like to call the "Real Florida".



We never stayed in any private campgrounds. We moved more south as the weather cooled, choosing State Parks, National Forests, State Forests, Corps of Engineer campgrounds and County Parks. We tried to time our arrivals for a Sunday morning to make the odds of getting a campsite better. When we got south of Tampa we actually made reservations in advance at some of the more popular campgrounds.



Florida has some great rivers that are easy to setup a shuttle as well as miles of bike trails, which Peggy loves.

We were gone for 4 months and canoed on **8** different rivers, paddling over **140 miles**. We biked over **250 miles**.

Other people that went to Florida this year complained that it was too cold, but if you are going to be canoeing or biking, the high 60's

are much more pleasant than the mid 80's.

I wrote a blog as we went along with lots of wildlife pictures and descriptions. Here is a link to read our [Florida Blog in Chronological Order](#). If you reach the bottom of web page click "View Older Posts".

**1st Annual
Cuyahoga Falls Race
April 23, 2016
By Donna Homberg**

Paddling this stretch of river referred to as the 'Sheraton Section' began about 5 or more years ago. Of course the water had to be high enough to paddle and then it also enough water to paddle over the dam. In 2013, 2 dams were removed from this stretch of urban water and a few different rapids began to form providing a different course on the river. Two scheduled races between face book friends and area paddlers, contingent on water level, took place and the Class V drops caught the attention of the paddling community.

During the winter months of 2015, two young men, Tom Piros and Nic Williams began communicating together and meeting 'at the river' during the winter months of 2015. Other strong whitewater paddlers expressed their interest and began paddling this section of the river. This not only involved the Class V drops but also carrying their boats along the rocky ledges from the take-out up again to the put-in to repeat the rapids again.

So as the scheduled date of a 2016 race was spread out through social media, many more people wanted to participate to make this event happen. Nic Williams and Tom Piros were the lead race organizers. Among the integral government support was the USGA water resources that provided a suitable plus water level as they discharged from Lake Rockwell a release of >600 CFS. The Cuyahoga Falls mayor, Don Walters also expressed his approval and cooperation. Area restaurants provided kayak titled food specials, the Sheraton Suites provided their observation platform for spectators along with the Burntwood Tavern outdoor restaurant. Thanks too many volunteers for safety, registration and timing along with the contribution of T-Shirts to mark the event. The Columbus Kayak group provided Astral shoes for all competitors. Burning River Adventures volunteered to shuttle the paddlers for this race.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ mile race started upstream of the Sheraton Hotel on the Upper Gorge at 1 PM with the top 5 moving to the finals. A freestyle display of kick flips & 360 barrel rolls coming off the ledge of the water falls entertained the spectators at 3PM. Many photos were taken along with video. This was a fun event and we joined with more than 100 spectators at this race. (Below Tom Piros & Nate Craig)



Brian Homberg

Adam Homberg

Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race 2016

First annual Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race along the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Big shout-out to the participants, volunteers who helped especially Don Howdyshell and to the many spectators, 30 Competitors (2 women) (10 out of state) Go to Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race on FB for more photos & video.

Official Short Boat Results

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	BIB NUMBER	START TIME	FINISH TIME	RACE TIME
Tommy	Piros	101	13:15:32	13:20:33	0:05:01
Adam	Homberg	104	13:18:53	13:23:54	0:05:01
Bobby	Miller	109	13:22:55	13:27:59	0:05:04
Ross	Crocker	107	13:21:56	13:27:01	0:05:05
Dan	Piros	105	13:19:52	13:24:57	0:05:05
Nic	Williams	103	13:17:56	13:23:04	0:05:08
Brian	Homberg	102	13:16:48	13:21:56	0:05:08
Mike	Satran	113	13:26:54	13:32:05	0:05:11
Seth	Chapelle	112	13:24:55	13:30:06	0:05:11
Matt	Sloan	110	13:23:54	13:29:06	0:05:12
Nathan	Craig	106	13:20:54	13:26:07	0:05:13
Sean	Chapelle	114	13:25:54	13:31:08	0:05:14
Shawn	Yingling	121	13:31:54	13:37:10	0:05:16
Eric	Saul	120	13:36:53	13:42:18	0:05:25
John	Banach	119	13:30:53	13:36:19	0:05:26
Ted	Engelhardt	116	13:27:54	13:33:30	0:05:36
Jason	Rovino	124	13:34:53	13:40:34	0:05:41
Sarah	Carter	123	13:33:54	13:39:55	0:06:01
James	Ratchford	122	13:32:53	13:38:55	0:06:02
Ryan	Flier	117	13:29:55	13:37:50	0:07:55
Tommy	Reisinger	115	13:35:53	13:44:40	0:08:47
C?	S?	111	13:28:55	13:55:01	0:26:06

Official Long Boat Results

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	BIB NUMBER	START TIME	FINISH TIME	ELAPSED TIME
Ross	Crocker	107	14:17:48	14:22:38	0:04:50
Bobby	Miller	109	14:18:46	14:23:38	0:04:52
Tommy	Piros	101	14:23:53	14:28:47	0:04:54
Matt	Sloan	110	14:19:49	14:24:49	0:05:00
Eric	Saul	120	14:22:51	14:27:54	0:05:03
Seth	Chapelle	112	14:20:50	14:25:54	0:05:04
Hayden	Boehlfeld	118	14:21:51	14:31:01	0:09:10

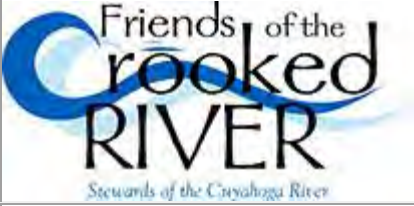


Gabriel Lavery



Dan Piros

See Matt Jackson's Excellent Video - [2016 Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race](#)

May	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
5/1	(5) Cheat River Race Clinic (WV)	26	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/6	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/6,7	Upper Yough (MD) or Big Sandy or Tygart (WV)	32	Needs organizer	
5/7,8	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
5/7,8	Cheat Fest Weekend (WV)	18-26	Needs organizer	
5/8	(3) Cheat Narrows (WV)	18	Phil/Jen Raber	740-498-7063
5/10	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
5/13	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
5/14	(1) Kokosing River (OH)	FW	Tom Kaylor	901-219-4236
5/14,15	(5) Intro to the Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Anne Kmieck	216-371-8250
5/14,15	(5) Cheat Canyon, Cranberry or Upper Meadow (WV) Be sure to contact Dave for river choice.	26	Dave Herron	513-681-4075
5/14,15	(3) Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman(PA)	18	Jerry Spence	614-561-3198
5/21	RiverDay 2016 Events Friends of the Crooked River (OH) 		Elaine Marsh	330-328-3909
5/20-22	(4) Stonycreek Rendezvous (PA)	21	Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
5/21,22	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit	23	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
5/21,22	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/27,28	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 440-554-1383
5/28	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ann Corey	330-858-4841
5/28	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit	23	Sabine Iben	216-407-6575

We need more organizers - Help! There are a lot of trips that need a leader. Please check the schedule, pick one, and then contact: [Dennis Dukeman](#) 330-858-6270

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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. 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 **5/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)

May, 2016



Keelhauler's

Ka-news

JUNE, 2016



Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday, June 14th

Program:

First Summer Outdoor Get Together

At Hinckley Lake by the boathouse has a nice setting where paddling is possible.

There are picnic tables.

Bring a boat and share with other kayakers.

Bring something to eat and share with the squirrels. Meet about six or so and stay as long as you want.

[Map to Hinkley Boat House](#)

The July 12th Meeting will be a Club Picnic at [Huntington Beach- Bay Village, OH](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl M. Nelson



Someone has said that people do not like two things: change and things staying the same.

I have been dealing with a great deal of change the past four months. And would really like things to have remained the same.

The hospital I worked for in Canton lost \$20 million in 2015. The Board told them they had to be \$20 million in the black in 2016. At the end of January they came and told me my position had been eliminated. We need your badge and keys. Go home. Don't come back.

I have had several phone interviews and two on-site interviews [both out-of-state] but no offers.

My wife and I have decided to downsize and move to Birmingham to be near kids and grandkids. We have realtors coming by this week. We are emptying the basement. Stuff is going to the church garage sale. Things that need to be fixed are being fixed. Things that need painted are being painted.

We will put the house on the market in the next week or so. Once sold we will pack and leave. We may be going to Birmingham in mid-June on a scouting mission.

There will be a Lower Yough Farewell Tour at a date to be determined depending on how things go--bring Kleenex.

**Keelhauler Meeting Minutes
Marcia Karchmer, Secretary
May 10, 2016**

Keelhauler Canoe Club Minutes: 5/10/16: 7:30pm.

Present: 20 members + 2 guests: Bob and Kathy

Old business: John Kobak: membership is up to 269, highest in 8 years.

Sam Reynolds gave his Treasurer's report.

New Business: Membership agreed to support The Portage Foundation Headwaters Adventure Race in July, 2016 at Buchert Park, Portage Park District with a \$100 donation per Board recommendation. Also, to donate \$100 to Lorain Co. Metroparks for supporting the Vermilion Race.

The Cheat River Race was moved to Narrows due to high water. Our team of five Keelhaulers also paddled the Laurel Fork.

Program: John Kobak showed a video of the history of the Upper Yough since the first run in 1959. Thank you, John!

Next Meeting: June 14: location and program to be determined. Whiskey Island site has not been well attended.

July 12: Picnic and Boating: location to be determined. Silver Lake may not be possible.

Program ideas are needed. A program chairman would be welcome! Meeting ended at 9pm.

Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

**Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report - May 22, 2016**

CD 0402	\$2, 277.83
CD 1077	\$2, 275.40
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 255.05</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 808.28

Checking	<u>\$4, 896.56</u>
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<u>Total</u>	<u>\$11,704.84</u>
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**Cheat Race 2016 – Record High Water
By Jim Hunt**

The 21st running of the Cheat River Race was one for the record books. The race is normally run in the Cheat Canyon the night before Cheat Fest with a water level between 1.5 and 5.0 feet. This year, starting Thursday, the racers were warned by the race organizers that very high water was likely and to check back in with them on Friday at 10:00 am for a update before running shuttle. By Friday am the water was well over 7 feet and still rising fast. By noon they informed the racers that the race, if held, would be in the Cheat Narrows and to meet at 4:20 for an update.

By the 6:00 pm race time, the water level was 7.85 feet and 12,300 cfs at Albright. None of Team Keelhaulers had ever been on the

Narrows above 6,000 cfs, so this was a major level increase and consideration of not racing was discussed.

The race was to be held starting in Rowlesburg, WV and finishing at the new FOC takeout about a mile below the normal Narrows takeout - about 7 miles total with 4 miles of that being flat water. Jim Hunt, Cliff Wire and Michael Duvall all scouted the entire race course and determined - we can do this. A quick call to Debbie Avallone to tell her "we all agree you can do this!" and we were ready to go along with Bill Warble.



Team Keelhaulers:

Debbie Avallone, Michael Duvall, Jim Hunt, Cliff Wire, Bill Warble
missing from photo

There were 81 racers, 13 of whom were woman. Of the 81, 26 were from Liquid Adventures Kayak School. This is down from more like 120-140 racers in a normal water level Cheat Race. The race organizers: Garrett Thompson, Rick Gusic and JJ got us all shuttled and upriver for a river bank Lemans start. Team Keelhaulers all picked creek boats for the big water safety factor except Bill who was in a downriver race boat.

And, we were off paddling in a group of 4 except for Bill who was going fast with the race boats. Lots of current in the flat water. Once the rapids started, there were Grand Canyon size wavetrains and lots of strange eddies and few monster holes. The sight of rescue volunteers on shore was an indication that things were about to get really exciting. Calamity Rock was the big rapid on the run but had a decent line thru it - glad we scouted it. We were running sweep for the race since Stubby is dog slow, and except for Bill, we all stayed upright and in our boats for the entire race. The winning time was 35:54 minutes with our group finishing in the rear at about 51:00 minutes.

We did have a prize winner as Debbie Avallone riding Stubby took 2nd place in Woman's Class D. From Debbie: Ok, there were only two women in Class D. Thanks to the KH crew for sacrificing their race times to see that the poky Stubby & I had a good, safe run.

We all had fun, and once the run was over, were glad we raced. How often do you get to run the Cheat Narrows at Grand Canyon flows.

June	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
6/2,9,16,23,30	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH) - 5:30-7:30PM But call Dennis first		Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
6/4	River to Lake - Luau - Sea Kayak Trip (OH) Rocky River to Lake Erie followed by a potluck dinner	FW/SK	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
6/4	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	April Hollis	703-915-6382
6/4,5	TRPC Slippery Rock Clinic Application Membership in KHCC or TRPC REQUIRED Registration ends when the classes are filled or May 21	13-19	Joe Marks	216-533-0604
6/4,5	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
6/11	(1) Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills (OH)	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-858-4841
6/11	(1) Licking River (OH)	FW	Tom Kaylor	901-219-4236
6/11,12	(5) New River (WV)	27	Dave Herron	513-681-4075
6/11,12	Mark Hanna and Carl Schneider Memorial Swiftwater Clinic (WV) More Information Limited to 10, Register early only \$90/person		Joe Marks	216-533-0604
6/14	Club Meeting - Hinkley Boat House	SK/FW	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
6/17,18	Upper Yough (MD) First Saturday Release	32	Bill Warble	412-651-0112
6/18,19	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit	23	April Hollis	703-915-6382
6/18,19	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	Jim Sollosi	412-496-8672
6/18,19	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
6/24,25	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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. 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 **6/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)

June, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news JULY, 2016



Next Club Meeting: Tuesday July 12th

Program: Pot Luck Picnic
At Huntington Beach in Bay Village

Come any time after 5 PM. Or if you want to have
a Ferris Bueller Day, come at any time.
There is a swimming beach, bring your kids and bathing suits.
If winds are good, you can surf the Lake Erie waves.
There is an opportunity for roll practice.

We will serve the picnic dinner from 7-7:30 pm at reserved shelter.
Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name:

A-E: Dessert or Fruit

F-L: Potato or Macaroni Salad

M-R: Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

S-Z: Chips or Appetizer

The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware,
and soft drinks. The shelter is a no alcohol shelter.

[Directions and map to Huntington Beach](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl M. Nelson



Memories of Lower Yough Intro Trips

July is when we have our Intro Weekend on the Lower Yough. Everyone who rides the bus with Jack had a day when it was their first ride with Jack. But to enjoy that first ride with Jack, a lot has to happen. Newbies have to learn that BCH means Boater's Change House—a house without a roof. Newbies have to learn about obtaining launch permits and making sure they end up at the bottom with a bus token for the ride to the parking lot at the top of the hill. Newbies have to learn the secret signal that indicates it is time for the lemmings to leave on the shuttle. Newbies have to learn which spaces will be in the shade at the end of the day. Newbies have to learn the mnemonic for the rapids on the Loop.

"Memories" [Elvis Presley]

*Memories, pressed between the pages of my mind
Memories, sweetened thru the ages just like wine*

Camping at Riversport—if you parked in the wrong spot, the headlight from the train would shine in your eyes as it wailed like a banshee going around the curve.

"Memory" [Lyrics from CATS]

*Turn your face to the moonlight
Let your memory lead you*

It was up early and then over Sugarloaf Mountain to the Community Center in Ohiopyle for their breakfast buffet. The calories were gobbled quickly because we had to be to the BCH by 08:00 AM in order to make the 09:00 launch time. The parking lot was full and kayakers were grabbing their boats to make the before 08:00 no permit needed launch time.

The Way We Were [Barbra Streisand]

*Memories light the corners of my mind
Misty water-colored memories of the way we were*

My wife and I smuggled a jar of peanuts into that movie. At a particularly quiet time one of us dropped the lid. It rolled for several rows and then went into a death spiral.

There has been carnage on the Intro Trip. Some have dislocated shoulders practicing their roll in the pool below Cucumber. There have been epic swims from Dimple to Swimmer's. There have been rope throws that were off the mark. The rope came out of the bag and then the bird's nest knot fell well short of the swimmer. I know because I saw it as I floated on down the river.

I remember standing on the rope throwing rock when Philnjen made their first descent. It ought to be against the law to style Pinball/Dimple the way they did on their first descent.

I remember sitting in the dynamic eddy towards the bottom of River's End when Larry Fordyce did a Hand of God on the TRPC kayaker who had just broken her neck.

In order for newbies to experience their first ascent with Jack, more experienced paddlers need to volunteer to escort them safely down the river. The memories and friends you make will be well worth the effort.

**Keelhauler Membership
Special
From John Kobak**

We are nearing the end of our membership year, which ends 9/30/16. Soon I will be bugging you to pay your 2017 dues. To encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join, I have cut the 2016 dues in half to \$10. I still have a few of our great 2016 Yearbook & Rosters left and can mail one of those while they last for \$5.

So direct your friends to this page.

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

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes June, 2016

There were no meeting minutes for the June meeting due to poor turnout.
(less than a handful)

Monthly Treasurer's Report By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report - June 20, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 277.83
CD 1077	\$2, 275.40
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 255.70</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 808.93
Checking	<u>\$5, 193.30</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$12,002.23</u>

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS CONTINUED.....

Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old time club members!

Cheat Narrows at High Water By Dean Norman

I enjoyed Jim Hunt's story about the Cheat River Race on the Narrows at high water. I was guiding for White Water Adventures in 1977, and one weekend the Cheat was extremely high, so their raft trips were run on the

narrows. Calamity Rock looked just as Jim described it recently. I was in a paddle raft with three customers, and as we approached the wave train in Calamity we saw some rafts climb a wave and roll over backwards dumping all the customers. I knew there were people with rafts and throw ropes to make rescues, but was not anxious to take a swim. I asked the three guys whether they wanted to go down the middle and risk a dumping? They had paid for the thrills so were entitled to whichever they chose. I was glad they opted to go to the right and run smaller waves.

One of the rafting companies ran the canyon that day with some big rafts. At Decision Rapids some customers chose to walk out, and the company always sent a guide with anyone walking out to be sure they didn't get lost. A customer still in a boat freaked, "Look! Even a guide is walking out!" Then another guide knelt down on the beach and began praying for God to deliver them safely through the rapids ahead. He did it to be funny, but not all the customers took it as a joke. However, they had no serious problems on the trip. The Cheat is a wonderful river.

Most of the summer of 1977 the Cheat was very low. I learned where all of the rocks were in the rapids, and could just position my kayak and let the current push me through...High Falls, Coliseum, etc. I haven't paddled the Cheat since the big flood that changed the rapids. So my memory wouldn't be useful if I went there again.

Racing through the 70's – 80's By John Kobak



The early years of WW boating in our club involved lots of slalom racing. We found the best way to teach boat control was to paddle accurately between slalom poles while navigating through Class II-III rapids. All the well-known paddlers in the world were involved in racing and the USA was just getting into the sport.



John Kobak in 1973 in his 1st home-built Lettman kayak

Charlie Walbridge wrote this long article about [Racing through the 70's](#). He explains how WW paddling evolved through racing and the early names in the sport. He explains how we all learned to paddle in the 70's and then with the advent of plastic boats, paddlers became river runners and had much more interest in tackling harder rivers with new techniques rather than racing.

There were many young paddlers in our club who were interested in competing and several older paddlers like Chuck Singer and I in our late 30's, that were willing to give slalom racing a try.

The Canoe Cruisers Club from DC was sponsoring a Slalom race on the Lower Yough at Dartmouth Rapid. They asked if our active club could take over the race starting in 1973. In our first year we had over 200 racers register.



Rich Priem & Terry Moore - KHCC Teens at Petersburg 1974

In 1974 we traveled to races in Petersburg, WV, the Savage River in MD and the Southeast Championships on the Nantahala River in NC. We wanted to see how the other clubs ran their races and see how good or bad we could do.



Rich Priem & John Kobak at the Savage Slalom in 1974



Jeff Kobak (11 yrs.) at Nantahala Slalom in 1976

We improved the Yough Slalom by having our club members to do all the gate judging which freed up the competitors to concentrate on racing. It was a very popular Slalom race through the 70's, with even some international paddlers competing.

But in the 1980's the number of participants kept declining until in 1987, when we found that we had more race workers than participants. Only 57 paddlers competed that year and that was the last year we sponsored the race.

We gave all our slalom poles to Bob Ruple to use for his races and training in his *River Sport School on the Yough*.



John Kobak in his home-built slalom kayak in 1976



My last slalom race in a Mirage in CO 1980

An Eventful KH Trip to the New and Wherever!

By Don Manson

In the mid 80's - a bunch of us white waterin' KHers traveled south to the New River for a 4 day 4th of July WW weekend. There were probably 15-20 paddlers including - Denny Cilensek, Bill Bachtel, Loren and Robby Schafer, Dan and Jeff Winters, Jerry Zeman, Bob Spetich and probably Kayak Kobak, among others. We paddled the New for the 1st day or 2; the New was running a summer level ~2.5 foot level. We had pretty regular runs with a lot of playing and surfing. Nothing very outstanding happened during those runs that I remember. But, while in my kayak, I found a pretty little waterfall coming off a cliff, straight into the river. I got underneath it, sitting in my kayak, took a shower and cooled off in the cold water on a hot day...and, had a drink of some very cold, deliciously sparkly, clean water coming from about 20 feet above me. It tasted great! I figured it's clear, cold and *probably* coming out of a spring?!? (Not the best idea for an epidemiologist who deals with people who become sick from water and food borne diseases.)

One of the evenings we were in camp, we were looking for a bit of excitement and decided to go roller skating in a roller rink in Hico ? It was sort of an indoor/outdoor pavilion type rink - 1st and only one I've ever seen. Denny remembers at least one side being open to the outside. It had developed waves in the floor (warped) with flat sections and wavy sections. We had a blast - I had a little too much of a blast...I've skated in the past and have usually done OK - but just to be sure I took my helmet and as a joke had a pillow strapped to my butt. I'm glad I wore my helmet to skate but after once or twice around the rink I decided to nix the pillow. During my time on the skates - I fell hard 3 times, flailing backwards - twice hitting my head on the floor (glad I wore my helmet) and all 3 times I landed on my right gluteus. That hurt a bunch ! The next day, after running the river, I was changing clothes in my van and Bill Bachtel saw my butt and he yells - "Wow, Manson - that's a helluva bruise you got! I guess you did need a pillow for your butt." I twisted around and sure enough I saw why my right hip hurt so much - I was able to see a distinct, radiating **black, purple and blue** bruise the size of a softball. I must have landed on the exact same spot each time and each time added a new color ! Somewhere I'm sure I've got a picture of it, *butt* I'm not sure you want to see it ?

At some point on the trip some wanted to dry their paddling gear? We stopped in to do laundry...huh ?!?! Not me !!! ... standing around outside I noticed a *gawdawful big bug* above the wood doorway. It had tremendously long pincers, about 2 inches long... longer than any flying bug I'd ever seen, and the flying menace was around a total 5+ inches long. I reached up, grabbed it behind the head and pincers, making sure it couldn't bite me, and was taking it down to look at it...as it spread its wings, arched its back and showed long, pointy stinger like things on its tail as well...Yeeooooo [www](#) !!! These were now aimed at the palm of my right hand. I immediately screamed and let the thing go - it flew toward a bunch of our tough paddlers... Right straight toward the crotch of either Robby Schafer or Jerry Zeman. He, seeing this bug with all that nasty equipment aimed straight at his equipment - shot straight up - elevated and the bug went between his legs. Turned out it was a male Dobson Fly...harmless but very menacing looking. First one I had ever seen.

We went to dinner at a nearby restaurant and got in after some had already ordered and were beginning to eat their dinners. I sat down across from Jimmy Botamer and asked him what was good. He had just begun on his chicken dinner and told me to get the fried chicken. It had the biggest breasts he had ever seen ! When the waitress came to take my order - I said I would like the "Dolly Parton Special !" She looked at me funny as I was being sprayed with bits of chicken and mashed potatoes after Jim busted out laughing. I wasn't expecting that ! It really was a great dinner, and they were *big breasts*.

While in the restaurant we heard the Cheat had some water in it so, we packed gear and headed north *as fast as we could*. On the way I was getting pretty sick and really just wanted to get to the Albright Bridge and the campground - I was becoming too sick to drive. I think Bill Bachtel took over for me and I just went and laid on the bed in back of my van getting more and more queasy on the way north.

We got to the Albright Bridge and the level of the Cheat at the bridge was pushing 14', just under the bridge itself !!! Whoaaa... Now, that is some "water in the Cheat" excitement we weren't expecting. While the others looked at the bridge and checked the level, I had to get behind a closed gas station and let things come out both ends. Before that I was much too sick to enjoy anything that looked like liquid. After letting go I felt much better and joined the others looking at the amazing amount of water flowing under the bridge.

We spent the night in the little roadside rest/picnic spot north of Albright. Bill and I had found a couple cherry bombs somewhere on the trip and since I was up early, decided this was an appropriate time to use them. Jimmy Botamer was sleeping with his side van doors wide open... hmmm - now that's inviting - good for a little early morning entertainment and excitement, eh ? I stuck one of the cherry bombs on the step inside his van, lit the fuse and ran, covering my ears. Waiting, waiting...what? it began spewing out a large volume of smoke. A smoke bomb - Not a cherry bomb! Bummer - Jimmy slept through the whole thing.

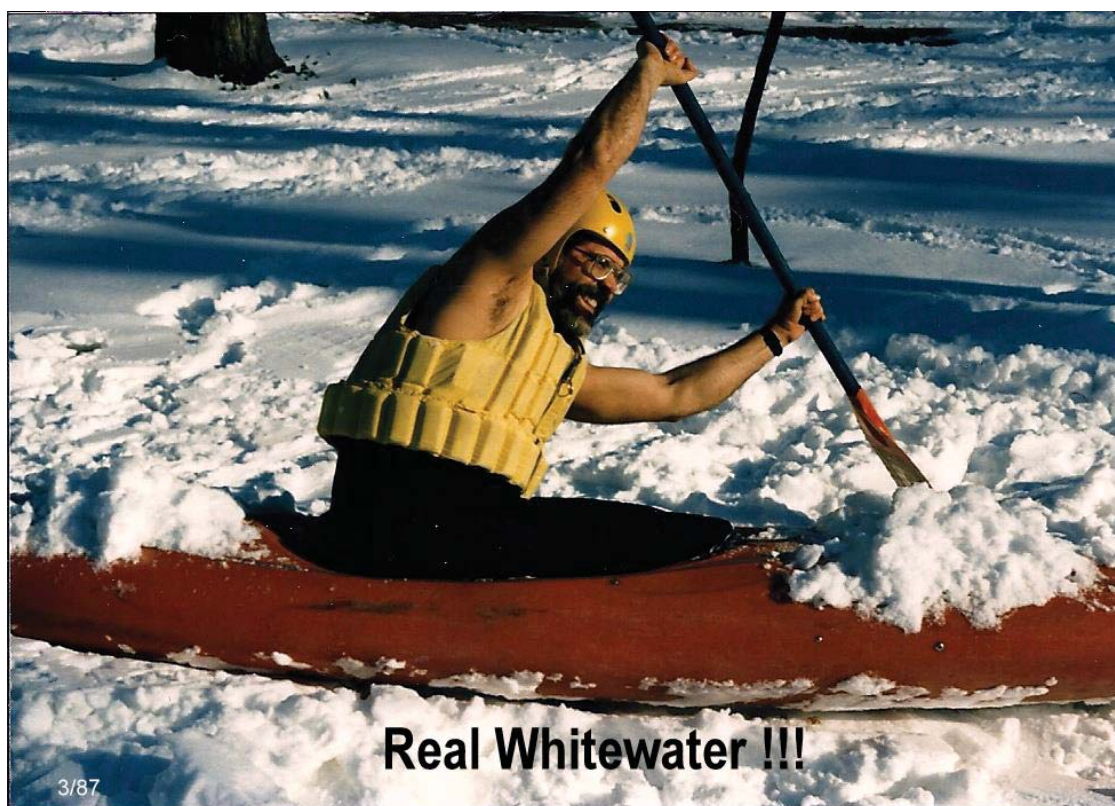
We went and checked the river level again - Still way too much water for the canyon...*maybe the Narrows* would be reasonable ? We scouted that and decided it was too dangerous also. Denny Cilensek had a raft with him and some of us considered running the Narrows in it. The river was wide, extremely big, fast moving flat water with some giant waves and huge pour-over-keeper holes. With the waves in the river, you really couldn't see the holes from upstream until you were just above them, and probably not able to avoid. A slow moving raft would not be a good choice either. We decided not to attempt the run and elected to run the Big Sandy instead. It was running low and boney, so Denny and Bob Spetich ran down to Wonder Falls and the rest of us hiked in to the falls to run their two boats over the falls. There were lots of pics taken of paddlers going over the falls - but they were all in either a red or blue fiberglass boat !

On the shuttle back we still had a "cherry bomb" that needed to be used. Jerry Zeman was asleep in the back of my van and we decided to use it now ! Bill put it in the ash tray on the dash and lit it...(is it a smoke bomb or a cherry bomb - I guess we'll find out !) We each took a big breath of air, rolled up the windows and waited for either the big bang, covering our ears and waiting for my dashboard to take some damage, or smoke to fill the van. **Smoke** began filling the van...whew ! The air was so thick with smoke we couldn't see Zeman in the back - but we heard him as he woke up thinking he was in Hell or a helluva fire ! He starts screaming what is it, what's happening !?!? as Bill and I are quickly opening the windows so we could breath... Laughing our asses off while Zeman, mad as Hell, was treasuring life !

On the way home we wanted to stop at a restaurant in the town of Cheat Lake. I was driving about # 2 in caravan of 8-9 vans with Bill Bachtel, Robby Schafer, and Jeff Winters. Bill was sitting shotgun when we were heading west down the long hill on Rt 68 heading toward Cheat Lake. A large truck runaway ramp was coming up - I look at Bill - he looks back, trying to figure what I've got in mind...Yeah - Let's do it - he says!?! (Neither of us

are the brightest when on these trips.) I head to the right for the approach and at ~60 mph we are headed into the ramp. I didn't know until it was too late that there was about a foot - straight drop off from the pavement into gravel at the beginning of the ramp. When I saw that - approaching at that speed I hit the brakes about 20' before we were off the pavement and into the gravel. With 4 kayaks on top of the van, we came very close to doing an ender when the front wheels dug into the gravel. Luckily we didn't ender and I was able to maintain enough speed to get to the harder packed dirt on the right side of the gravel. We came to a stop as all the others went sailing by wondering what the hell we just did ??? I backed the van down the ramp and back onto the highway. We found all the others pulled over at the next exit waiting for us out of their vans. Everyone asked "What **DID** you do ?" Jimmy Botamer was driving behind me and said that when I went off the end of the pavement and hit the gravel my back wheels went at least a couple feet in the air...Luckily, no ender just a pop up, eh !?!

At a very well deserved dinner we had a whole bunch of things to mull over during a most eventful WW weekend ! At least we all came back **ALIVE** and with many stories to tell !!!



2016 Team River Runner Kayak Football Tournament

Hello Buckeye Adaptive Kayakers,

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Team River Runner Kayak Football Tournament. It is the Team River Runners 2nd annual event - hosted on Sunday August 7, 2016 at Willowdale Lake Country Club in Canton Ohio. Any help to spread the word about our upcoming event is most appreciated.



- - - A quick recap and a couple random photos of last year's event - - -

The Team River Runners - First Annual - "Veterans Kayak Football HOF Challenge" took place during the Pro Football Hall of Fame weekend at Willowdale Lake Country Club in North Canton, Ohio on August 9th, 2015. The event was a tournament for Disabled Veterans to participate in the competitive water sport of kayak football. Athletes were with various challenges such as blind, amputee, paralyzed, and mental challenges - all working together and playing on equal field - the water. Eight teams played in a round robin format with the ultimate goal of winning the championship. The teams came in from many states, and were welcomed to our community.

The Blind Bastards

The Blind Bastards are an independent team associated with Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Their team captain is Joe Mornini. You can bet with a name like that they were interesting to watch.

TRR - Shepherd

The TRR chapter from Shepherd University in West Virginia was here. Their team Captain was Tracy Seffers. This group played hard-nosed football. That's why they have the nickname "RamRod".

TAASC - Columbus

The TAASC team came here from Columbus. Their team Captain was Angela Meyer. Although this was a fairly new team, they're not new to kayaking. They were happy as long as they beat that team from up North (us in NE Ohio) which was a very good time to compete among friends - it was a very nice challenge to play against all of the teams there.

TRR - Cincinnati

The TRR chapter out of Cincinnati was there and came in hot. Their team Captain was Jon Stone. They are a strong group of paddlers who made the competition very fun to watch.

Team River Runner Cincy is looking forward to helping with the 2017 National Veteran Wheelchair Games - which will be hosted in Cincinnati next summer. We are planning on giving the opportunity of those wheelchair athletes and friends a chance to try out adaptive kayaking during that event.

TRR - Walter Reed

The TRR Walter Reed team was in from Maryland. Their Team Captain was Brandon Huff. This is a veteran team with lots of experience in kayak football. This was the team that won the event and took the cup.

TRR - NE Ohio

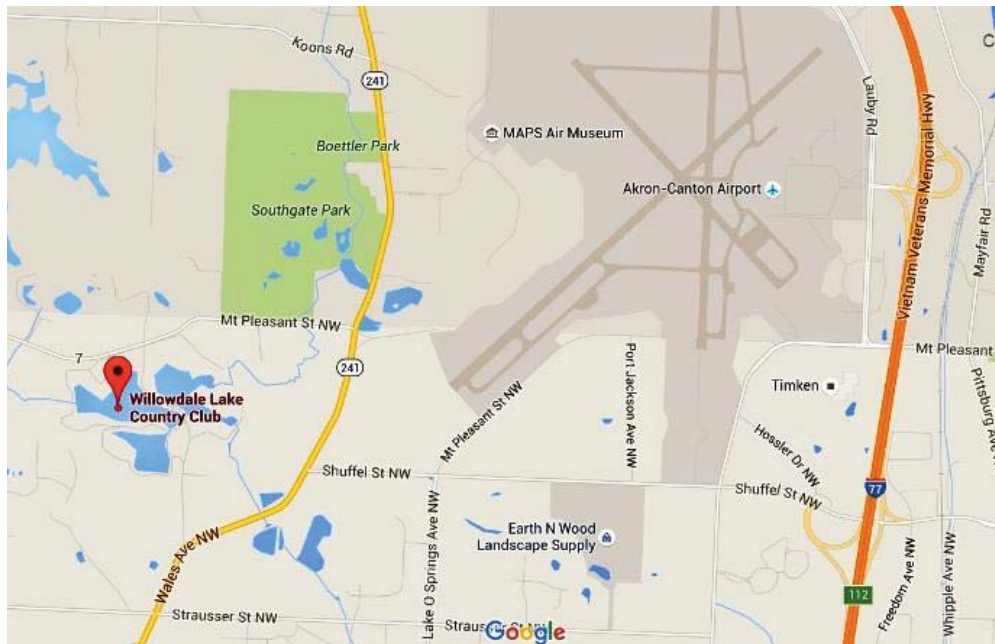
Our local chapter of TRR has our work cut out for us. Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio and led by Captain Justin Jeffers (Keel-Hauler). the team played well and has happy to support such a national event in our own backyard. We are looking forward to this year's 2016 event returning during the Pro Football Hall of Fame weekend and hosted at the Willowdale Lake Country Club in North Canton, Ohio on August 7th, 2016.

Why We Did It?

This tournament was created to honor our Military Veterans in a fun and unique way and give these men and woman a chance to show what it means to adapt and overcome. At the same time, they were introduced to an entire community to the world of competitive kayaking, and water sports. By watching these competitors, you learned all about Adaptive Ability and how water can become the great equalizer in overcoming any disability.



This was a free event to come and watch, and will be free again this year at the 2nd annual "Veterans Kayak Football HOF Challenge" at Willowdale Lake in Canton Ohio.



If you (or anyone) can't make this event and you are a veteran in NE Ohio that is interested in trying Kayaking or learning more about Team River Runner?

You can visit the Team River Runner website at <http://www.teamriverrunner.org/> or e-mail the TRR NE Ohio Chapter Chair at Cory Anderson at Cory@TeamRiverRunner.org for more info and participation interest, and find me on Facebook also with the same e-mail.

Thank you for helping spread the word as this is the only way we promote this event - sharing the info to your friends and passing along the word - hope to see you in August.

Also - you can find us on Facebook - look for me at

Cory@TeamRiverRunner.org

Cory

**Legends of Ohiopyle
Borrowed from Blueridgeoutdoors.com**

JESS DADDIO23 JUN 14

GO OUTSIDEJUNE 2014PADDLING2 COMMENTS

Nestled among the rugged Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania lies an old logging town with an international renown that far outweighs its scant population of 59.

That town is Ohiopyle, a sleepy little place with a few old buildings and one main road that runs through town uninterrupted by stop sign or traffic light. But what it lacks in appearances it makes up for in one thing. Whitewater.

Picture this: a one-mile class III "Loop" on the Lower Youghiogheny (Yough) in your front yard, the natural bend of the river making a shuttle unnecessary; a half-hour-drive to the put-in of the class IV+ Upper Yough; another 45-minute drive to any of the Yough's steep class V tributaries along with countless other runs in the area like Big Sandy and the Cheat River Canyon; and, of course, a killer Thursday night yoga class by Yogi Wade paired with brews, foods, and tunes at the local Falls City Pub. That sleepy little town doesn't seem so drowsy anymore, right?

It's a diamond in the rough no doubt, yet one whose reputation for world-class whitewater, and whitewater paddlers, is incomparable. Rewind 30-some years to the late '70s and '80s, to an era that saw the rebirthing of whitewater paddling and a boom in the industry right on the waters of the Yough. Whether raft guide, entrepreneur, or downright gutsy kayaker, you can't tell the history of paddling in the 'Pyle without mentioning the following five individuals.

For the rest of the article and the 5 legends.....

<http://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/paddling/legends-ohiopyle/>

July	Top of Page - For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
7/1,2,4	Upper Yough (MD) or another local IV-V run with Jim Murtha	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 440-554-1383
7/2,3,16,17,30,31	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
7/2-10	Week of Rivers with Carolina Canoe Club (TN, NC)	20-28	Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
7/3	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
7/09	Tuscarawas River Canoe Race Registration Form - Dover (OH) 	SK/F W	Mary Jo Monte-Kaser	330-340-5180
7/12	Club Picnic at Huntington Beach- Bay Village, OH	SK/F W	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
7/14,21,28	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH)- 5:30-7:30PM But call Dennis first		Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
7/16	Headwaters Adventure Race (OH)	SK/F W	Kurt Ruehr	330 297 7728
7/16,17	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Intro weekend - Call Fran for Permit	23	Fran Hoven	216-375-3718
7/16	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/17	Canoe & Kayak Orienteering Race Walborn Reservoir - Alliance, OH	SK/F W	Bob Boltz	330-928-8635
7/22,23	Upper Yough (MD) - Paddle Fri, Sat Race & Festival is Saturday, 6 hr release. Race Check in: 9 AM - 12 PM at Wilderness Voyageurs in Friendsville, MD.	32	Needs organizer	
7/23,24	(5) New River (WV)	26	Needs organizer	
7/22-8/6	Playboating on Ottawa River (Canada) A passport or card required An 8-10 day play boat trip-Water level dependent-Dates are tentative	27-32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293
7/29-30	Upper Yough (MD) Friendsville Days - Fri 5:30-10:00 PM, Sat 12-10 PM. Note - Town will be closed to traffic around 11:45 AM	32	Needs organizer	

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

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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

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **August issue of the newsletter is **7/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com

July, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news AUGUST, 2016



Next Club Meeting: Saturday, August 20th
at 6:30 PM at Tall Oaks Campground, large pavilion, near Ohiopyle, PA

Program: Picnic in PA

All Levels of Paddling on the weekend with a Saturday night picnic!

This has become our most popular meeting of the year. The meeting will be Saturday, August 20. This is the same weekend as several different club Yough trips. There will be an opportunity for all types kayaking and canoeing. Yough Lake for the flatwater and sea kayakers, and the Middle, Lower & Upper Yough depending on your skill level for river paddlers. There are also beautiful biking & hiking paths for those that choose not to paddle in the area. Saturday evening at 6:30 pm will be a Potluck Picnic Dinner at Tall Oaks campground for members, family and friends. The large pavilion has been reserved. You do not have to camp here to join the picnic. Those who wish can camp around the pavilion. 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 - Dessert or Fruit**
- **G-L - Potato/Pasta Salad**
- **M-S - Salad/vegetable/or baked beans**
- **T-Z - Chips or Appetizer**

Jim Hunt: 330-335-5203 is the Skip Work Day organizer on the Lower Yough for Thursday 8/18

Debbie Avallone: 440-835-2547 is the Ladies Only Day organizer on the Lower Yough for Friday 8/19

Jim Hunt: 330-335-5203 is the Upper Yough trip organizer for Friday 8/19

Michael Duvall: 216-513-5921 is the Upper Yough trip organizer for Saturday 8/20

Dave Roush: 440-623-9035 is the Lower Yough trip organizer for Saturday & Sunday 8/20,21

Mark Spang: 440-522-0520 is the Middle Yough trip organizer for Saturday & Sunday 8/20,21

More details to follow on our Message Board. Help will be needed grilling and getting everything ready for the cookout. Please contact Dave (rockyroush@gmail.com) if you are willing to help. Camping/Meeting/Dinner Questions? Call 440-623-9035 or e-mail - Dave Roush

[Tall Oaks Directions via new Mon-Fayette Turnpike](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl M. Nelson



This is in the vein of the Little Red Hen.

As I am sure you are all aware, we are moving to Alabama to be closer to our grandkids. Unfortunately, I have also decided to forgo the honor of being the club president. But who knows, I may be able to organize a trip with the Birmingham Canoe Club for a northern invasion [think Lower Yough instead of Gettysburg] next summer. Maybe some of y'all will come south for one of the Alabama Cup Races [<http://www.alabamacupraces.com/>].

Dave Roush will continue as VP until the end of his term. However, he is still gainfully employed. He has also been passionate about expanding the Julie Billiard School, a small Catholic K-8 school serving special needs kids exclusively. They bought a building in Akron at the end of June and hope to open for the 2017 school year. This will consume all of his volunteer hours and then some! Dave will not be able to serve as an officer with Keelhaulers.

Chuck McDowell's term as a Trustee is coming to an end. He is also coping with an elderly mother with significant health problems.

In addition to persons volunteering for these leadership positions, there are a number of issues for the Keelhauler members to think about. One is the continuation of the monthly meetings [Sept-Dec; Mar-May] at the Middleburg Heights Community Center. Do such meetings play a role in the

life of the Keelhaulers? Can personal paddling connections be maintained via social media? IMHO, campfire time is crucial.

Someone will need to organize the pool sessions at Orange, Lakewood and Canton.

The trip schedule for 2017 will need to be organized. The trips we all enjoy do not just happen as if by magic. Dennis Dukeman organized the trip schedule for 2016. But he needs people to volunteer to lead trips. The club may be able to survive without a face-to-face meeting at the Middleburg Heights Community Center, but it will not survive without face-to-face meetings at the river. I have lurked on several paddling Facebook groups and can understand their value. There is plenty of paddling (and volunteering) going on that is not on the Keelhauler trip schedule, e.g., the Cuyahoga Falls Race from earlier this year.

I guess what I want to say is that the Keelhaulers have been an important part of my life for the past 16 years with lots of memories and memorable swims. If the Keelhaulers are important to you, then volunteer (**especially if you aren't old enough for an AARP card**) so that the stories will continue.

Auf Wiedersehen

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2016
By John Kobak

We had about 20 attendees that enjoyed the food & drink supplied by the club and brought by Bob Bair. John Kobak cooked the burgers and dogs and it was held in the nice Metro Parks pavilion overlooking the Lake Erie beach.

About half the members brought boats and enjoyed the 90-degree weather.

The other half just came for the picnic. We had one new member, Caleb Fisher, sign up and hopes to get into all types of paddling.

Everyone agreed that Silver Lake is still a nicer venue and we certainly didn't need to reserve the pavilion on a weekday night.

Distant members drove in from Garrettsville, Kent, Cleveland Heights, and Bedford.

Monthly Treasurer's Report By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report - July 23, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 278.51
CD 1077	\$2, 276.08
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 256.37</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 810.96
Checking	<u>\$5, 328.42</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$12,139.38</u>

A Memorial to Chuck Singer By Jane Andraka

Memorial Day weekend Mountain Streams and Trails guide staff, their families and friends gathered in Albright, WV to celebrate the life of beloved Keelhauler and MS&T guide Chuck Singer and scatter his ashes in the Cheat Canyon as requested by his family

The level was perfect (just below 3') and the rain held off as dozens of kayaks, shredders and duckies took to the river. At High Falls everyone had good lines and eddied out below the rapid. We all raised our paddles high and cheered as Chuck's dear friends videomaster Scott Patton and MS&T river manager Charlie Granigan ran center line, scattering his ashes. Just then a sunbeam broke through the clouds and we remembered one of Chuck's favorite songs 'Centerfield' by John Fogerty that he liked to sing when it was sunny on the river.

Then at Coliseum we planned to run the rapid and eddy out on river right to scatter the rest of the ashes below Recyclotron. He must have enjoyed the

show as a raft landed in the middle of Recyclotron and surfed for 15 minutes, ejecting several rafters who were finally rescued just above Pillow rapid by safety boater Luke Andraka. There were swimmers and kayaks missing eddies and people slipping on the rocks as ropes were deployed - just the kind of river chaos Chuck was so good at handling.

Finally, to much laughter and good-memory sharing his ashes were scattered and the trip continued and although there was one more dynamic shredder back ender in the holes left of Pillow, everyone made it to the take out in one piece.



Morgan Lennon and Chuck Singer

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS CONTINUED.....

Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old
time club members!

Conservation Issues By Jim Hunt

From American Whitewater:

AW Seeks Flow Restoration On The New River Dries (WV)
by Kevin Colburn



Immediately downstream of the New River Gorge, a beautiful 5.5-mile section of the New River has been dewatered for generations. Paddlers call this reach the New River Dries, and know it for the huge surf waves that form at high water. The Hawks Nest hydroelectric project removes 10,000cfs from the Dries, leaving only 100cfs except when high flows overwhelm the dam. The relicensing of the dam offers a once-in a lifetime opportunity to restore flows to the New River. American Whitewater filed comments today with federal regulators outlining our vision.

The dam owner originally proposed no flows to replace the natural summer base and pulse flows that their dam eliminates. In response to comments by American Whitewater and paddlers, the dam owner then proposed one 3-day weekend of releases. The dam owner also proposed to continue extremely low base flows, and to provide no river access at either end of the Dries.

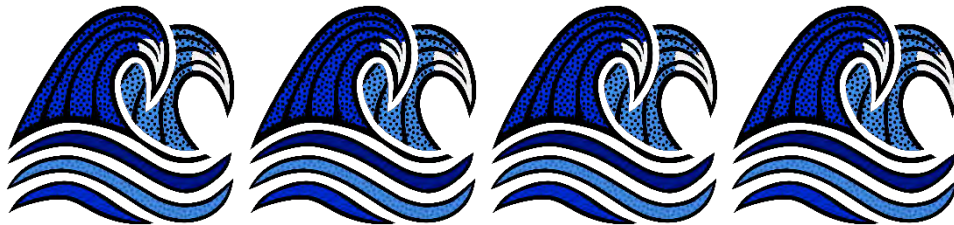
American Whitewater conducted intensive analyses of the hydrology of the New River and has proposed an alternative that will restore some of the paddling opportunities and key ecological values eliminated by the dam. Key elements of the proposal include:

28 days of roughly 2,500 cfs releases in the June-October timeframe.

Significantly higher base flows (boatable in early spring)
Longer and year-round downramping of flows following big releases (which could help paddlers taking advantage of frequent winter and spring spill flows)
Vehicle based river access at the put-in and take-out
A role for paddlers in future decisions
Flexibility to adapt flows to optimize their values in the future

At flows around 2,500cfs the New River Dries offers a highly scenic Class III whitewater run with ample play, lots of fun technical moves, and a short shuttle. Our proposal would be an outstanding improvement for the ecology of the river, and would support significant commercial and private paddling opportunities.

In our comments we also sought to address the connection between the hydropower project and an alloy plant that uses the unusual frequency of power it generates. We propose creative solutions that would help the plant modernize to reduce or eliminate its reliance on dewatering the New River to operate. We've pitched a win-win proposal, and in the coming months federal regulators will analyze our proposal in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement upon which paddlers will be invited to comment. Then a new license for the dam will be issued, and hopefully, the New River Dries will roar back to life.



From Elaine Marsh at Summit Metro Parks:

July 13, 2016

Dear Friends of the Cuyahoga River and the Gorge Restoration,

Join the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County Council, Summit Metro Parks and the growing list of other partners in the effort to restore a free-flowing Cuyahoga River. Please write a letter of support for the removal of the Gorge Dam.

To date, The Ohio EPA completed several steps in the process. In 2009 and 2011, USEPA conducted studies that showed the dam pool contained 832,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. In 2015, Ohio EPA commissioned a study on the alternatives and costs of removing the sediment and demolishing the dam. The next phase is to study the

hydrology, the geology and the engineering. In addition, we must secure the needed agreements with potential funding agencies and organizational partners.

You can help.

Our goal is to demonstrate the existing broad support to invest public and private funds into this project which will benefit the region, the state and the Great Lakes Basin. Currently, the dam has no function, supports no jobs and is one of the largest unresolved water quality problems on the Cuyahoga River. Its future is absent any real prospects. By contrast, removing the dam will:

- Restore water quality in the gorge area of the Cuyahoga River
- Improve the health of human and natural resources by removing toxic sediment from the dam pool
- Restore Gorge Metro Park to the historic natural grandeur of its location
- Exhume and restore the Great Falls of the Cuyahoga River
- Amplify land and water-based recreational opportunities related to the dramatic topography of the gorge
- Bolster Northeast Ohio as a tourism destination by linking with other major attractions, CVNP, area Metro Parks, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and other institutional magnets
- Showcase the cultural and natural significance of the gorge and its intriguing history
- Create a 2.5-mile white water course for expert paddlers, unique in Ohio
- Support economic development generated from expanded tourism, recreation and education

For your convenience, a template and sample letters are attached. All letters should be directed to Bill Zawski at Ohio EPA. If you have any questions, please contact me. Also, contact me if you would like to schedule a presentation on the Gorge Dam for your organization.

I look forward to working with you on restoring the Gorge of the Cuyahoga River. There are exciting times ahead related to Gorge Dam Removal. I will keep you apprised.

Sincerely,

Elaine Marsh
Watershed Specialist
Summit Metro Parks
975 Treaty Line
Akron, OH 44313
emarsh@summitmetroparks.org
(330)328-3909

Sample Letter:

Your Logo Letterhead

Your address

Date

Mr. William Zawiski
Environmental Supervisor
Division of Surface Water
Ohio EPA
2110 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Dear Mr. Zawiski,

(Your organization's name) supports the removal of the Gorge Dam.

(Your organization's name) has fundamental interests in the Cuyahoga River, its water quality and its economic value to the community. (State those aspects of your work and mission that relate.)

We believe the removal of the dam will have very positive benefits. (Note any benefits you believe apply. You may wish to note some of those listed below.)

- Restore water quality in the gorge area of the Cuyahoga River
- Improve the health of human and natural resources by removing toxic sediment from the dam pool
- Restore Gorge Metro Park to the historic natural grandeur of its location
- Exhume the Great Falls of the Cuyahoga River
- Amplify land and water-based recreational opportunities related to the dramatic topography of the gorge
- Bolster Northeast Ohio as a tourism destination by linking with other major attractions, CVNP, area Metro Parks, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and other institutional magnets
 - Showcase the cultural and natural significance of the gorge and its intriguing history
 - Create a 2.5-mile white water course for expert paddlers, unique in Ohio
 - Support economic development generated from expanded tourism, recreation and education)

We believe the potential value of removing the dam far exceeds the significant cost of removal and it is a cost-effective use of public and private investment. (State why if you choose.)

(The name of your organization) fully support the removal of Gorge Dam.

Sincerely,

The signature and name of your authorized officer

FRIENDS OF THE CHEAT



WORKING TO RESTORE, PRESERVE, AND PROMOTE
THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL QUALITIES OF THE
CHEAT WATERSHED



Friends of the Cheat hosts the Cheat River Festival every May - and we kindly ask guests to leave their dogs at home. At Pups, Pints, & Pickin' - you can bring the WHOLE family, including the furry ones, for some sun & fun - FOC style! Come support the Cheat River and the Preston County Animal Shelter: Dog lovers! River Lovers! Music Lovers! Art Lovers! We're wrapping it all up into one fun weekend, complete with a beer garden, dog-centered workshops, and live music. Music line-up and website: <http://www.cheat.org/pups-pints-and-pickin/>

Ticket prices/packages:

Saturday Adult Admission - \$25

Under 18 with an Adult - \$10

"Howl at the Moon" Packages:

Saturday Adult Admission + Saturday Night Camping - \$35

Saturday Adult Admission + Friday & Saturday Night Camping - \$50

Elite Group Camping Package - \$400 (\$100 per person)

4 guests enjoy Saturday Admission, Friday & Saturday Night Camping in a 30x20 reserved shaded space - complete with fire ring, access to private portajohn and sink, and private beer garden entrance. PLUS - 4 merch swag bags. Total worth - \$550.

Volunteer for Pups, Pints, and Pickin' - get free admission and Friday and Saturday night camping. Currently all volunteer positions are available. Email ellie@cheat.org to sign up!



JOIN THE FOC RUN FOR IT! TEAM - REGISTER OR DONATE HERE

Calling all runners (and walkers).

The 2016 RUN FOR IT! race registration is now open! Join the FOC team and you have 2 options: run/walk the race, or help us energize the runners at the FOC [High-Five station](#), located in the middle of the race. Either way, you'll be helping FOC to raise \$\$! If you can't make it to the race, you can also get involved by donating.

RUN FOR IT! is a 2k (1.2M) and USATF-certified 5k (3.1M) race around the scenic mountain town of Davis, WV during the Leaf Peepers Festival. Read more about the race [here](#).

Organized by the Tucker Community Foundation, RUN FOR IT! leverages funds for area causes. The process is a bit confusing - this [chart](#) can help to explain how the race works.

We can always use more trip organizers

Contact: [Dennis Dukeman](#) 330-858-6270 Or [John Kobak](#) . . 440-871-1758

August	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
8/4,11,18,25	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH)- 5:30-7:30PM But call Dennis first		Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
8/5,6	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
8/6,7	(4) TRPC Turkey Bash at Lower Yough Turkey Bash 2016 Info & Forms KHCC members same as TRPC Application deadline: July 23, 2016	23	Joe Marks	216-281-1517 216-533-0604
8/12,13	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Annelies Layton	412-867-9628
8/13,14	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit	23	Peter Dragon	202-566-2657
8/13,14,27,28	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
8/18	(4) Lower Yough - Skip Work Day (PA) Get Permit	23	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
8/19	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
8/19	(4) Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day (PA) Get Permit	23	Debbie Avallone	440-835-2547
8/20	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
8/20,21	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Get Permit Call before Thursday at noon.	23	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
8/20	Club Picnic at Tall Oaks (PA)		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
8/20,21	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12/SK	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
8/26,27	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
September	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Time to Pay Dues	
9/2,3,5	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293
9/3,4,5	(5) New River Gorge (WV)	27	Phil/Jen Raber	740-498-7063
9/9 to 11	I will coordinate all Camping at Battle Run for Lower & Upper trips (WV)	27-33	John Kobak	440-554-1383
9/9	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/10,11	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	Needs organizer	
9/10,11	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Phil & Jen Raber	740-498-7063
9/9-11	Midwest Freestyle Canoe Symposium Camp Butler 880 W Streetsboro Road Peninsula, OH		Bob and Elaine Mravetz	330-239-1725
9/13	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Dave Roush	440-623-9035

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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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KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com

August, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news SEPTEMBER, 2016



Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday, September 13th

at Middleburg Hts Community Center, 16000 E. Bagley Rd
Doors open at 7:00 PM, Meeting is at 8:00 PM.

Program: Exciting Time for the Cuyahoga

By Elaine Marsh - The Watershed Specialist for Summit County Metro Parks

The Cuyahoga River transformed by the burning passions of river advocates and the Clean Water Act and is having a banner year.

Elaine will give us an update on the park's plans for Dam Removal along with other Cuyahoga River issues, including the Water Trail, Akron CSO's and the Brecksville Dam.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

It's that time again.....

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expire on **October 1st**. As soon as you can, please mail a \$20 check for your 2017 membership dues. To:

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

Or pay \$20 using Paypal. Use this link to pay:

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

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

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

User Name: "dir" and the current 2016 password found on pg 20 of our 2016 yearbook or see the passwords sent out in our monthly e-mail.

If you need to change any of your membership information use this on-line form:

http://keelhauler.com/khcc_registration.htm

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

CELEBRATING KARL NELSON AND DAVE ROUSH

By Marcia Karchmer



As Karl and his wife move to Alabama to be closer to their grandchildren, let us celebrate all that he has done for the club! Karl operated without a program chairman this year and was able to bring in interesting programs for every meeting. He has indeed been a reliable and excellent leader!

Karl had a farewell tour on the LY. Canoers converged from several states for the tour. You rarely see so many canoes (nor want to). He made a three-day weekend of it with 10-20 paddlers each day.

We had the full experience: hot weather, rain, sunshine when we needed to change, dinner at Curt's, camp fires, reminiscing, bad jokes, etc. We are going to miss Karl's very dry sense of humor.

Dave, Leslie, Marcia and others put in too many hours to research, communicate with and set up the NE OHIO PADDLER'S NETWORK on Meet Up. We have 14 sponsors and 885 members. The site is getting the word out about opportunities for kayaking trips and training in three NEOH counties. It was my privilege to work with Dave on this project! Dave is resigning in order to dedicate more time toward a nonprofit school for children with special needs, the Julie Billiart school in Akron, OH. Despite his busy schedule, he led the LY trip in August when no leader was available. His time as vice-president has been very productive.

As we celebrate Karl and Dave, let us also celebrate the trustees, Sam Reynolds (treasurer) and the Chairpersons, all of whom put in many hours of service to the club! Of special note: Jon Kobak logs 30 hours/week as webmaster (whether in or out of town!); Jim Hunt, as yearbook editor; Kelly Miller, our talented newsletter editor; and Jon Reising, the organizer of the Vermillion Race. What a special group of people!!

As we move to new leadership and a new meeting format, I hope we all stay in touch. Keelhaulers is family. Once you are part of the family, you are always part of the family! ☺

Godspeed and a safe journey, Karl! Best of outcomes with your school, Dave! Stay in touch and visit if you can. We will miss you both!!

Monthly Treasurer's Report By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report - August 18, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 279.16
CD 1077	\$2, 276.73
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 257.01</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 812.90
 Checking	 <u>\$5, 481.66</u>
 Total	 <u>\$12,294.56</u>

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Memory Lane By Judi Fordyce

As I sell my whitewater gear after 40 some memorable years of kayaking, I guess it is only fitting that I think back on those times. Volumes of fond memories, interspersed with a few moments of terror - such as recirculating in a hole, or worst yet, seeing one of your friends recirculate in a hole, or shatter their leg during a swim, in a remote location. But on to the fond memories....

Back in the day, when I first started kayaking in the late 1970's, we would make our own gear. Some people made their own kayaks from molds provided by various club members. Those were back in the days when fiberglass ruled and you would not be caught dead in a "plastic" boat. My, have times changed! And for the better. On more than one occasion I returned from a river trip and had to make a fiberglass repair in the bow of my boat. Yes, strips of fiberglass and layers of resin, all while trying to lie on your back and reach up into the bow of your boat, and breathe in those vapors - what a challenge!

We also made our own neoprene river wear. John Kobak provided the material and "glue" which we applied to butted seams. To get the "perfect" fit, you would use masking tape and newspaper to fashion a pattern. Then have a friend cut the pattern off of you. The end result fit great! Very customized. During the early days, John Kobak was our source for everything "whitewater" and for a couple of years he was the top selling "Perception" dealer in the US.

Of the most memorable times on the river, I recollect the following. My top ten (though there were many more), in more or less chronological order...

1. My first trip down the **Lower Yough** the weekend after spending the week at Nantahala learning how to whitewater kayak. Several Keelhaulers guided us down. It could have been disastrous without them, but with them, it was a hoot! Who would have thought it would take me more than 30 years to learn to roll. On one Yough trip recently, and in a testament to my husband's ability to teach someone to roll, I became "one" with the kayak roll. I was paddling with two other people just above Railroad, and they instructed me to go first and be safety boat. I ran the normal line (when those who know me, know I always run frog's back) and of course, flipped. I could feel my right knee releasing from the knee brace and thought "I'm gonna swim". But then thought, hey wait, "I can't swim! I am the safety boat." So I let go of my paddle with one hand, re-seated the knee, then re-grabbed the paddle and rolled up. I was certainly smiling in the eddy when they came down. And, they, did not need any "saving"; unlike me, they did just fine.



Judi in KH Yough Slalom in early fiberglass boat

2. Rafting the **Cheat**. It was the first time I had been on the river. It was probably within the first few years of my paddling, and I did not feel comfortable kayaking it, so I went in a raft with other Keelhaulers. Part way down the river, one of the women kayaker's (who was just coming back from an injury) decided she really couldn't make it any further in her kayak, so I was volunteered to trade spots with her, and kayak the second half - yikes! It was just above high falls, I recall. I survived, and actually it was fun, but I sure was scared. This was pre-flood days and I remember running Pete Morgan on river right at the top, before sneaking through a gap in the extended rock divider, to end on river left.
3. Rafting section 4 of the **Chattooga River**, again in the early days (with Fred Robinson). My first time on the river which was a thrill to paddle. And the thrills began while waiting in an eddy at the put-in, holding on to a tree branch, while the group got ready. A large snake fell out of the tree right into our raft! Before anyone (like me!) could panic, Dennis, using the blade of his paddle, adeptly scooped up the snake and flipped it out of the raft. Phew! In later years when my daughter, Kristen and I would shred the same section, we would have to dodge snakes when we carried around Woodall Shoals on river left. We were quite the sight with the shredder on our heads, dancing through the bed of boulders, doing our best to stay away from all the hissing sounds.



4. Shredding the **Lower Gauley** with my daughter Kristen. For a number of years Kristen and I became quite the shredder duo on rivers such as the Cheat, the Gauley, and more. Our minds would think as one and with very few words said, we blissfully navigated the river. After a while, we would find other shredders following us down the river, especially at Lower Mash.



Lower Mash on Lower Gauley, with other shredders following

5. Shredding the **Upper Yough**. I was only on the Upper Yough once. With Chuck Singer, in the shredder. It was an absolute hoot, and certainly had my heart pounding.
6. Sea kayaking in **Glacier Bay**, Alaska, my first date with Larry, my then future husband. We kayaked tidal races, where my white water experience came in very handy. Who knew you could eddy behind an iceberg? But watch out, unlike rocks, they can move!
7. The **Big South Fork**. The river where I "earned" my roll. After a full winter season of hitting the pool weekly and performing an uncountable number of successful rolls in the pool, I was ready for the river. It was a Southern Rivers trip, and we were going to run the Big South Fork, which I had never been on. John Kobak told us, "there are just three major rapids and we will scout them all first. So with a contingent of very strong paddlers, as escort (John Kobak, Wayne Carey, Michael Duvall, Bill Miller, Elliott Drysdale, and Larry), I signed on. The river turned out to be very exciting (perhaps it was the higher level?) with several blind drops, and you guessed it - zero scouting. On one "horizon line" rapid I remember seeing multiple people run with what all looked like less than satisfactory results, so no clue as to what a good line might be. Hah... I got lots of roll practice on this river, but I never swam - yay! Another funny/scary moment was when Wayne Carey and I were the last two boats left in the eddy above a rapid. Wayne, who knew the river somewhat, recommended I run the rapid on the left. OK, I'm ready for this, I have my roll, right? Then as Wayne pulls out of the eddy, he looks over at me, as I wait my turn, and says "but not too far left!" OK, so now what is that supposed to mean? Really? As I left the eddy and rapid came into view there was a significantly mean looking crease on the left hand of the river. I suppose there was I line there, but not

anything I was willing to mess with, so instead I went right down the middle.... and into the hole and flipped... but I had my roll!

8. Kayaking the glacial melt rivers in/near **Futaleufu, Chile**. Also sea kayaking from the Andes to the Ocean. Wendy, Larry and I started out on the lower Futaleufu and ended up in a small village on the coast that is situated below a volcanic site that had just erupted the year before and deposited ash everywhere. What looked like white sand beaches were really all ashes.
9. Sea kayaking with icebergs among the glaciers near **Svalbard**, an island north of Norway. We were at 80° latitude. Larry and I camped out in polar bear country. The guide had his gun, which fortunately, he never had to use. He had a dry bag for it which he fastened to the bow of his kayak.
10. Drumroll please! The **Colorado River** through the Grand Canyon - simply spectacular. A magical place. And getting to experience it with friends (twice) was nothing short of priceless!



Steve Ingalls, GC guide extraordinaire, at Crystal



Anne Kmieck at Horn Creek



2001 GC Crew, note shredder in background

I want to express a HUGE amount of appreciation to all of you Keelhaulers, who have taught me the sport, mentored me, rescued me on multiple occasions, and became my close friends both on and off the river! Bravo Zulu!

So if there is someone out there who teaches you how to execute a river roll, or gives you that last missing piece you needed to do so, do express your gratefulness. And what the heck, you might even marry them. That's what I did!

While I no longer have my white water kayaking gear, I DO still have my shredder and gear. So you just might see me again sometime on the river... re-living those glory days!



50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old
time club members!

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Queen's Cup Race - Cuyahoga River - Late 70's - Mid 80's By Don Manson with comments by John Kobak.

Once upon a time during the 70's and 80's there was an elegant river race held on the Cuyahoga River in the Cleveland Flats sponsored by the English Speaking Union. Viewers came decked out to celebrate Queen Elisabeth's Birthday. There was a big parade and contestants had matching uniforms. It was a circular race - counter clockwise - and not long... just a race of gladiators in teams of four, to provide entertainment for the elite royalty and dandies of society. The teams were comprised of groups representing Cleveland area businesses, restaurants, bars, universities, and sports teams usually paying a pretty steep entry fee for each category - to raise monies for a local charity - the English Speaking Union - Cleveland Branch Shakespeare Competition. That's why poor paddlers like us had to get sponsors. I think I raced in at least 3 maybe 4 races. There were usually 5 boats per heat, consisting of several different categories. We paddled in our respective heats and the winners of each heat would then paddle the winners from others until there was a final champion.



Kobak's Comments - The first race our club raced in had 1 woman and 3 men, Dennis Shelby got a bar in Lakewood to sponsor a team. Dennis, Ann Rayburn, Elliott Drysdale and I were the winning team that year. All the teams were young and fit looking. We were in our 40's but it seemed we were the only ones who knew how to paddle a canoe.

Over the years there were refinements from the 1st races. A team made up of Keel Hauler paddlers: John Kobak, Lester Stumpe, Elliott Drysdale and Dennis Shelby were going to be hard to beat by any other teams because they had a few years' paddling experience. They were sponsored by the Elegant Hog Restaurant and had guaranteed the restaurant a win. There was local TV coverage and good publicity for the bar. They entertained us on their big yacht and we got bottles of Champagne for winning. Most of those teams weren't sure how the oars? were to be used. Bob Bellas' canoe livery in Painesville provided the paddles, life jackets and standard 17' aluminum canoes to keep the competition somewhat even.



The first two years we won with ease. Then Don Manson heard about the race.

The race course was on flat water just below Terminal Tower on the west bank of the Cleveland Flats. It was short - as canoe races go...just about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile around 4 or 5 buoys,

and all left hand turns to the finish, back close to the starting line. The 1st 2 races I was involved in were held at Diamond Jim's Steakhouse on the river (now torn down). The rest of the races were held one bend downstream - just down from the revolving Center Street Bridge, near what is now the Nautica Pavilion.

When I first learned of the race, I put together a team of 4 flat water canoe racers,



figuring we would blow any competition out of the water. Kobak was paddling with White Water paddlers and I thought they did not have much flat water racing experience... *Wrong!* Kobak had the expertise to win the race and would always get the inside 'pole' position for the best start. They had no one on their left side and would have the least distance to paddle during the race, forcing the others in their heats to the outside if they were attempting to pass. They made sure they had the pole position at the beginning of

each heat and after the start no one could get past them. Our team was paddling between the KH team with the other teams banging into us. After getting free of the other canoes, we were forced to the outside and it was hard, almost impossible, to get over the wake made by a heavy KH war canoe with 4 paddlers. For the 1st two years we took 2nd place overall. We either needed to get the pole position or be able to beat the KH team to the 1st buoy or get over their wake as we were paddling around and passed them.

Next year's race Kobak's crew again had the pole position but there was a longer 1st leg which gave us a better chance to get ahead of Kobak's team. We decided to take the far right position, substantially longer in distance - but with no one on our right side and no interference we had a better chance of beating them to the 1st buoy. Kobak's Comment- *I actually remember Don's team trying to ram into us and we partially filled with water. But they made it! Now they had the advantage of leading with the inside position.*

Other teams would have to cross our wake if they wanted to get ahead of us. We had them beat with no problem! AND, found ourselves overall winners on the gazebo podium drinking champagne out of the Silver Bowl (The Queens Cup), with the names of all the winners

inscribed, the winning team got to display the cup in their establishment for the following year.

Kobak's Comment - My memory is foggy but near the last of the races the KHCC also fielded a women's team. Our racers were Marcia Mauter, Elaine Marsh, Nancy Hudson and Kathy Pichola. The final year we raced there were separate winners for each division like Restaurants, Colleges, Corporate Teams and the Women's division. That year Kobak's team won the Restaurant division which was for the Queens Cup but the Union decided why not have the winner of each division compete in a final race for the overall champion. But the Keelhauler's had a devious plan. The Kobak team would take a position to the right of the women's team who had the pole position. At each turn Kobak kept going straight taking the other teams with him allowing the women's team to get around the buoy and move into the lead. They did this at each turn and ran interference on the final leg so the women's team won the overall race. I don't think the race organizers liked this too much.

I don't remember why we didn't go back to defend our win... Maybe the Queen's Cup was no longer being held? I contacted the English Speaking Union recently and learned that because of waning interest and liability concerns, the last race was held in 1991. Such a shame...So many things are discontinued because of Liability and Litigation.



(People I paddled with in the 1st races were - Mickey Nagy, Ted Creighton, Tony Zemak?, and in the 2nd races - Gary Worob, Donn Flower, Curt Jones.

We Get by with a Little Help from Our Friends

By Fran Hoven

The July 2016 Intro to the Lower Yough trip was more re-acquaintance than introduction for the participating paddlers, as all had paddled the LY many times before. Still, since a few were in new boats or still lacking any semblance of a reliable roll, the support of a strong and experienced group was an appreciated consideration in their electing to be there. All of the 10 am permits had already been spoken for when I hit the website, so our Saturday launch time had become an 11am slacker slot, in stark contrast to days gone by, when we had often put several permit-less safety boater reserves on the river before 8 am and launched a massive flotilla at 9.



July 16th would be my first day on a river this year, as I hadn't had time to get in my kayak except for one Lakewood pool session and a serene evening paddle on Lake Erie at the Huntington picnic. A few prudent preparations were attended to prior to launching. Having been apprised of a disastrous and ill-advised Stony River run earlier this year, I made some adjustments to Sue Lan Ma's outfitting and added some hi-visibility tape and an indexing cue to her paddle. She said that her knees were not making good contact with her thigh braces, despite her seat being all the way forward, and the thigh hooks as far back as possible. I moved her bulkhead a little closer to the cockpit and tightened up her backband, which put

her knees under the thigh hooks, greatly improving the chances that she might manage an Eskimo rescue in lieu of a swim. Subsequently, when Sue mentioned that one of the back band's ratchet straps was missing, I fished it out and re-inserted it. Teresa Pitt proved her worth as a safety boater at the top of Entrance eddy on river left, when she noticed that I had neglected to fasten my still new and unscathed Sweetwater helmet. I'm still getting acquainted with my Jackson Zen. After mugging for the camera at Cucumber, and watching the others descend, I flipped across the eddy line and did a practice roll in the current. Mike Greiner from Columbus was with us in his brand new blue Piranha Burn, which he managed to roll successfully at Cucumber and a few other places over the course of the weekend. Sam Reynolds, considerably more accustomed to his red Burn, was providing safety boater services.



Jim Allen, having driven in from Michigan, was paddling his venerable old Noah with obvious finesse. I couldn't resist encouraging him to fix the cracks in his thigh hooks with some ski-base weld sticks.



Rick Feryok joined us for a loop run in his open canoe, and astounded Chuck McDowell with a well-executed roll after flipping at either Piddly or Camel and Walrus. Chuck had approached in anticipation of needing to bulldoze the canoe to an eddy. Rick didn't need any help, but Sue provided Chuck with an opportunity for an Eskimo Rescue. A few others who had expressed interest in joining us had to opt out due to other obligations, but we had a nice little group and a relaxed day on the river, which was running at a quite comfortable level of about 1.9 feet.



Last year the LY was running at about 3.5 feet, and I had coaxed Sue and a few of the newbies into doing the Middle Yough instead on day one. At a higher water level, the Middle is not such a long slow slog, and affords a lot more fun than low water runs. Brent and April escorted the others down the LY. On day two, with the LY still running above 3 feet, Sue had flipped trying to run the sneak route at Dimple, precipitating a long swim for both her and Dave Roush, who had attempted to offer an Eskimo rescue before flipping on a rock and having to bail. I grabbed the all black paddle she had relinquished, and chased after the two boats, managing to hang onto both of our paddles after dropping into the hole at Swimmers. My older displacement hull boats, a Dagger Crossfire and a Transition, might have been stuck in a side surf for an extended time, but it was relatively easy to spin the Zen around and cruise out of there. I handed off Sue's paddle to Mary Ann Roberts, who Dave Roush had encouraged to join us in a rented ducky. She had paddled her sit on top rec kayak on the Middle the day before. I continued downriver to retrieve the boats, which had been corralled by a couple of girls in duckies. Sue turned up in tow on the back of Tim Stull's boat, but would have to wait for her paddle till after lunch. I towed Dave's boat back up to him at Swimmers.

This year Sue opted to run the usual line at Dimple. She came around the corner fine, but stopped paddling before continuing to ferry across to the eddy, which prompted several of us to yell vociferously for her to "Paddle!" lest she get swept into the rocks behind her. Years ago, as a relative newbie on one of Jane Andraka's Intro Trips, I had broached and flipped on one of those rocks, and finally rolled up after about a half dozen desperate attempts.

After stopping at Swimmers for lunch, we continued on down the river at a leisurely pace. I was feeling pretty comfortable in the Zen and ran the slot at Schoolhouse Rock. Ty from British Columbia asked to join us, as he was attempting to get off the river a little earlier than the group from Pennsylvania he had been paddling with. He was anticipating a 5 hour drive to New Jersey for a rendezvous with his girlfriend. A competent paddler, albeit unfamiliar with the LY, he just needed a clue or two regarding the upcoming rapids and the takeout. We enjoyed swapping tales and reminiscing about Whistler-Blackcomb and the Bowron Lake Canoe Circuit. Lucky dude. BC is a beautiful outdoor paradise.

Someone remarked that we hadn't had any swims, and then Sue obliged, perhaps at Staircase if I recall correctly. This time it would have required over-exertion on Chuck's part to proffer an Eskimo Rescue before she popped the skirt, as he was several yards away when she flipped.

En route to Maze I encountered a young siren with an enchanting singing voice, who serenaded us with a haunting melody from years before her time. Trying to recall the name of the song, I turned back to ask her. She had been singing "Leaving on a Jet Plane" by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Except for having to forego indulging in beer or boxed wine whilst providing escort services for the rafters, she was in her happy place, soloing the raft. On other days she safety boats in a kayak, which requires more focused attention. We concurred that favored brews included Magic Hat #9 and Straub, and then segued into an extended conversation regarding learning, and the lack thereof amongst many of the recreational rafters. Given her laid-back temperament, river guide experience, and passionate interest in outdoor education, I couldn't resist encouraging her to consider



becoming an Outward Bound Instructor, which would afford opportunities to inspire engaged learners.

Our roster underwent some changes on Sunday. Jim Allen's back was feeling fine, but he didn't want to tempt the fates and overindulge, so he opted to head back to Michigan, which given his need to stop and stretch, is typically an 8 hour drive. Chuck McDowell had also left for home. Sam Reynolds, Mike Greiner, Teresa Pitt, Sue Lan Ma, and I were joined by Jackie Simpson, Joe Marksz, Cliff Wire, Mike Duvall, and Jim Murtha, as well as a couple other paddlers a few of us had met at the Stone House outdoor barbeque the evening before. John Batman and his son Adam, both in Jackson play boats, appeared as we were preparing to embark and asked if they could join us. John had lost his drain plug and had stuffed a hunk of sponge in the hole. Figuring that the group would be at Entrance for a while, I told him I wasn't in that big of a hurry and encouraged him to run over to one of the outfitters and get himself a new drain plug. The screw holes matched, but he had to carve out a larger opening for the plug. A right-sized Forstner bit would have worked nicer than a knife. He turned up on the river with some tape wrapped around his finger, but would appreciate having a much drier boat for the day.

The Yough was running at about 1.8 with the water temperature in the 60s. Cliff was paddling a pink Zen, which despite being labelled "I'm Purple" is most definitely pink. He got his Zen quite cheap compared to what I paid for my urban camo version, so being a pragmatic conservator of his resources, he wasn't going to let the color bother him. That morning, at Tall Oaks, I remarked that he was assuredly secure in his masculinity, which

elicited a funny story from Jim Allen. Joe was paddling his new Nomad. Cliff, Joe, and perhaps Mike Duvall and Jim Murtha exhibited their Upper Yough maneuvering skills as they eddied out on river left above the guide rock at Cucumber, and then ferried across the river above the drop. We meandered down the river at a leisurely pace, with many in the group tarrying to play various features. Jim Murtha pointed out a whirlpool near the loop takeout at Railroad conducive to stern squirts for the playboaters, and I got a couple of good shots of Adam and a few of the others as they repeatedly attempted getting vertical.



I don't recollect any misadventures until we got to Dimple. Teresa Pitt, who had exhibited good paddling skills until that moment, had an unexpected mishap, broaching on that rock just past Dimple that we had been yelling at Sue to paddle away from the day before, and that I had a close encounter with decades ago. I believe she tried, but couldn't roll, and swam to shore on river left a few dozen yards downstream. Her paddle and Jackson Karma were secured by Jim Murtha and Joe Marks. I was behind them as they corralled the boat in a squirrely eddy. The current in the channel on river left was too strong to attempt towing or bulldozing the boat to Teresa, and too strong for her to swim it. A bearded guy attached a carabiner to his throw rope and tossed it to Joe and Jim. Years ago at a Slippery Rock clinic, I had learned how dicey it can be to handle a rope in a kayak once it hits the water and is being swept downstream. When you ferry a rope across a river, you really need to send someone across the river ahead of you, so they can get out of their boat, brace themselves, and remove the rope from your tow system. If you try to do it yourself, the rope dragging in the water will pull you over, and you'll end up needing to roll, and will have to let go of the rope. As I attempted to lend a hand by grabbing the rope in order to facilitate their efforts to clip the carabiner to Teresa's boat, I was about to be reminded that I should have known better. The other mistake, of course, is that there was

too much boat traffic down that channel, and I don't think anyone had bothered to direct paddlers to avoid that channel while we had a rope in play. In an instant I felt a tug on my paddle and knew I was in big trouble. The rope had wrapped around the shaft just above my right blade. There was no way I was going to let go of my AT paddle, so I was getting pulled over. Somehow I managed to extricate my paddle from the rope, but now I was upside down, smacking my Sweetwater helmet against rocks, and furiously attempting to roll while getting swept down the river toward Swimmers, in one of the worst places on the LY for an underwater tour. I made multiple attempts to roll up, switching sides a couple of times to try to get a little help from the current, but it was to no avail. I knew it was time to bail when I began just bringing my head up to grab air instead of maintaining proper form, and then felt the kayak just stuck up against rocks. Although the Zen is much easier to roll in current than the stern squirty Dagger Axiom I had paddled on the Middle Fork of the Salmon a few years ago, I was now appreciating Cliff's acknowledgement that his roll in his Zen was not yet reliable. I think I could have rolled my Transition or an RPM in similar circumstances. Of course, Cliff's swims were precipitated by flips on much harder rivers, like the Upper Yough. I hadn't had an out of boat experience on the Lower Yough since the mid 1990s, when I swam a long and bony section of Entrance after broaching on a rock, and got a tow to the staging eddy above Cucumber from Karen Petit's daughter, Angie, who was already an excellent paddler as a teen. The stern grab loop on my Crossfire had torn loose on one side. Subsequently Dagger sent me some plastic weld sticks so I could fix it. I was still fairly functional, but firmly resolved to do my utmost to avoid exiting my boat at Entrance ever again.

This time, I really didn't go for much of a swim. When I finally exited my boat, I found myself in a narrow rock slot on river right, a couple dozen yards above the hole at Swimmers. The slot was not an eddy, as a fairly strong current was flowing through it and keeping me there. I was still hanging on to my paddle, treading water, and out of breath and energy. My boat was too heavy with water to push out of there against the current, and the rocks were a little too slick and steep to climb. As I considered my predicament, my old compadre Cliff stopped by in his pink Zen and politely inquired: "Do you need some help?" "Yes I do!" I said. I pushed my Zen toward him and he got some of the water out of it before sending it downstream where Jim Murtha and some of the others corralled it near a rock suitable for relaunching on river right. I grabbed Cliff's bow loop to rest a little and tossed a raft paddle that had joined me in the slot back out into the current. Cliff attaches a length of climbing rope to his stern grab loop, which facilitates towing swimmers. He directed me to let go of his bow so he could turn his boat around. I grabbed the ropes and he started towing. As he paddled past the slot I was still stuck in it and had to hold him there while I pushed off the rock with my feet to get myself around the corner and free of the slot. He towed me to the rock where the guys had brought my boat. I set my paddle on the rock, but needed a few moments before climbing out of the water. Although Cliff was telling me to get out of the water, I was wearing a Kokatat Gore-Tex drytop with a merino wool top underneath, so I was comfortable and in no danger of hypothermia. I just needed to get my wind and energy back after that extended underwater run before trying to climb up on that rock. I can still hold my breath for a fairly long time, but it ain't what it used to be, and it would probably help if I got back on my bike on a regular basis... I seal-launched off the rock and ferried over to recuperate and eat lunch on river left. Jackie and Teresa told me that the guy had let go of his rope after I got tangled in it, and that Sue had also been running into the rope as she proceeded down that river left channel,

apparently unaware of the hazard. I too lost a rope at Dimple one year—sometimes you just have to let it go, and try to learn from the experience.

The rest of the day's run on the river was uneventful. I think I pretty much stayed in energy conservation mode, shooting some pictures of ducks, somehow skipping Killer Falls, and circumventing Pharaoh's Tomb at Bruner's Run. After tipping Jack and loading up our boats, Sam and I enjoyed a good conversation as I drove him back to his Jetta wagon at the put-in, at an unusually sedate speed in my Saab. I showered at the boat house, and poked around Ohiopyle before heading home, checking out the pictures at River Photos, and exploring some of the newer food stops and shops. I ran into John and Adam Batman at the outfitters by the tracks. Adam, who is extremely flexible and has a great roll in his little playboat, had been experiencing some wrist pain. Earlier in the day I had suggested that he might want to try using a bent shaft paddle, so there they were, checking them out. Unfortunately, my Adventure Technology flex shaft is now going for about \$450, so it's no wonder I'm reluctant to relinquish it! I suggested that he figure out what length would work best for him, and see if he can find a deal someplace like the Gauley Fest, where I had picked up my Transition for \$300.

After dining at the House Café, I pulled over to insert a Joe Cocker CD as I headed up 381. With sobering synchronicity precipitating some reflection, the first track was: "I Get by with a Little Help from My Friends." While self-rescue skills are essential, and kayakers really need to put the time and effort into developing reliable river rolls rather than perpetually relying on others to save them if they flip, try as you might to go with the flow, the river can take you places you don't want to go. Nevertheless, as Joe had implied in an earlier conversation, we are all between swims, no matter how well you can usually roll and brace. When kayaking, we most certainly do get by with a little help from our friends. It would not be possible for the club to offer an Intro Trip on the LY if we didn't have paddlers willing to serve as safety boaters. Across the years we have had some epic days where their skills were sorely needed. Cliff had suggested that I write a story for the newsletter, so here it is: This tale tells that he was there when I needed a little help from a friend.



Revisiting the Gorge Dam Removal Submitted by Karl Nelson

The Keelhaulers Canoe Club has long advocated for the removal of the Gorge Dam in the Cuyahoga River, and with the release last year of the Ohio EPA/TetraTech engineering report, that reality has taken a big step forward. But there are still a lot of questions about the next steps in the process. That's why WKSU is revisiting the discussion through a public forum in Cuyahoga Falls. Here are some of the details:

WHAT: WKSU Exploradio public forum - The Gorge Dam Removal Project - One Year Later

WHEN: Sept. 21st 2016, 6:30 -8:30 pm

WHERE: Sheraton Suites, Cuyahoga Falls

WHO: The panel includes: Bill Zawiski, Ohio EPA; Lisa King, director, Summit MetroParks; David Hill, member American Whitewater Association, REPRESENTATIVE, City of Akron

It's been one year since the Ohio EPA released its engineering report on the proposed \$70 million removal of the Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls. This forum brings together many of the stakeholders in the project in a public discussion of the feasibility of the project and its effect on the future of the Cuyahoga River.

As you see, we've asked David Hill to represent your group - and he has agreed. But I also want to invite you to attend and to help spread the word.

Yours,

Jeff St.Clair, host/reporter, WKSU-fm, stclair@wksu.org



Conservation News
The Party That Saved the Gauley
Submitted by Jim Hunt

THE PARTY THAT SAVED THE GAULEY

30 YEARS OF GAULEY FEST: THE STORY BEHIND THE SOUTHEAST'S WILDEST FUNDRAISER

This story first appeared in the August 2014 issue of *Canoe & Kayak Magazine*.

By Susan Hollingsworth Elliott



Fall paddling hasn't been the same since 1968, when six paddlers ran the 26 miles of Class IV and V rapids below the newly constructed Summersville Dam on the Gauley River. John Sweet and his cohorts discovered a whitewater playground full of steep cliffs and house-sized boulders, serene pools and complex whitewater. In those days the Gauley represented the pinnacle of eastern whitewater, and the intermittent dam releases brought an air of celebration mixed with trepidation.

"We met in the shadow of the dam," West Virginia paddling legend Charlie Walbridge wrote of one early trip in the 1973 AWA Journal. "An adrenaline-induced sense of humor prevailed."

The Gauley was destined to become a West Virginia classic, not least because since 1984 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers releases water from the dam for six weekends each fall. Those scheduled releases gave life to Gauley Season, which now draws tens of thousands of

whitewater boaters to West Virginia, not to mention busload after busload of rafters and the raucous tribe of river guides who follow in their wake.

We take it all for granted now, but in the early 1980s a hydroelectric project threatened the Upper Gauley's best rapids, and releasing water for the enjoyment of a few unkempt river runners seemed like a radical notion. Changing that view would take paddlers years of hard lobbying. Naturally, they began the campaign with a party. Citizens for Gauley began the tradition with the West Virginia Whitewater Festival in September 1983. The following year, the task devolved to a fledgling group of paddler-conservationists known as the American Whitewater Association.

"It was bad, really bad," says Peter Skinner, a director with American Whitewater at the time. "AWA was on its last legs and the hydro developers were poised to pounce on our favorite rapids."

Rivers across the country faced similar threats, but paddlers rallied to defend the Gauley. The small cadre of boaters soon developed a reputation for partying and a talent for pissing off hydropower executives. They also demonstrated incredible commitment to preserving their playground. With letters, phone calls, legal interventions and more, the AWA pushed hard against hydro development and for scheduled whitewater releases from Summersville Dam.

The soul of that effort—not to mention its economic engine—was Gauleyfest. "The first Gauleyfest was epic, just plain epic," former AWA director Peter Skinner says of the 1984 festival. As a massive thundercloud threatened the event, organizers meandered around the fairgrounds, unsure of how to organize the festival.

Just when they most needed a dose of encouragement, the reigning Miss Florida sauntered up to Skinner, who was preparing the t-shirt sales. "I told her, 'You'd look amazing in this one,'" he recalls, "and without the slightest hesitation, she grasped the sides of her top, pulling it up and over her head in one very smooth movement. Only a tiny overburdened pokadot bikini top on a perfectly tanned rib cage remained." Skinner promptly convinced the beauty queen to wrap herself in a roll of raffle tickets. "She sold more raffle tickets than I ever dreamed was possible," says Skinner.

Organizers were not so lucky with the scheduled entertainment. "I was pissed as hell that night at the bear guy," says AW director Pope Barrow, who thought bear wresting would be a hit with river runners: Take on the most challenging rapids in the East, and then try your luck with a bear. Alas, it was not to be. "He never showed up and I later learned that an outfitter on the New had paid him a few bucks more to go to his event instead of ours," says Barrow. "You just can't trust bear wrestlers."

Even without the bear, Gauley fans had begun to arrive in unexpectedly high numbers. Organizers couldn't cook the chicken and corn fast enough, so they served the chicken half raw, and gave free beer to folks who helped shuck corn. Somehow, everyone got fed. The party was a fundraising success, Barrow says, and "AWA actually had enough of a budget to start causing trouble at FERC." That would be the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency that issues hydropower permits.

As Gauleyfest became an institution (this year's festival, the 30th, is Sept. 19-20 in Summersville, W.Va.) American Whitewater continued to lobby for boater access and recreational dam releases. Today, dam operators and officials at FERC and other government agencies know the six of full-time AW Stewardship staff members well. Thanks to the persistence of Skinner and his generation of river conservationists, these relationships have blossomed immensely. In 2013, American Whitewater participated in management decisions that provided scheduled dam releases and paddler access on at least 24 rivers across the country.

And as tradition dictates, this new crew of whitewater stewards—a little less ragged, slightly better connected, equally passionate—travels to the hills of West Virginia the third weekend in September every year. Here, they string lights, park cars, sell t-shirts, quell rowdy crowds, and ultimately collect the money that will allow them to return to their work and fight for the conservation of our favorite rivers.

8/26,27	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Pratt	307-871-3081
September	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Time to Pay Dues	
9/2	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Pratt	307-871-3081
9/3,5	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293
9/3,4,5	(5) New River Gorge (WV)	27	Phil/Jen Raber	740-498-7063
9/9 to 11	I will coordinate all Camping at Battle Run for Lower & Upper trips (WV)	27-33	John Kobak	440-554-1383
9/9	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/10,11	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	Needs organizer	
9/10,11	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Phil & Jen Raber	740-498-7063
9/9-11	Midwest Freestyle Canoe Symposium Camp Butler 880 W Streetsboro Road Peninsula, OH		Bob and Elaine Mravetz	330-239-1725
9/13	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
9/16-18	Upper Gauley (Festival Weekend) (WV)	27-33	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
9/17,18	(4) Lower Yough(PA) Get Permit	23	Chuck McDowell	330-477-1086
9/17,18	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12/SK	Gene Baker	440-320-4490
9/24	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	Needs organizer	
9/24,25	(5) Lower Gauley & Upper Gauley (WV) Camping at Battle Run	27-33	Joe Marks	216-533-0604
October	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Time to Pay Dues	
9/30,10/1	Upper Yough (MD) Last Saturday Release	32	John Kobak	440-554-1383
10/1	17th Annual Over Ohiopyle Falls Race (PA) Falls Race Info	30	Barry Adams	412-242-4562
10/1,2	(5) Lower Gauley & Upper Gauley (WV) Camping at Battle Run	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/8,9	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Anne Kmieck	216-371-8250
10/8,9	(5) Lower Gauley & Upper Gauley (WV) Camping at Battle Run	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/11	Club Annual Election Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
10/15,16	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Fall Color Trip Get Permit	23	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
10/22,23	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	John Banach	330-606-5032

2016 Club Officers

President:	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **October issue of the newsletter is **9/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

701 Forrest Ave.

Geneva, IL 60134

peetzaguy@aol.com

September, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news

OCTOBER, 2016



Next Club Meeting: Tuesday, October 11th

*at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd*

Doors open at 7:00 PM, Program is at 8:00 PM.

Program: The Real Florida by John Kobak

For many years we have spent our winters in Mexico but last year we headed to Florida. Not to Disneyland, the beaches or camping at the crowded private RV parks.

He will present pictures of Florida's beautiful natural areas in the National Forests, State Parks, Preserves and Forests.

Election: Be sure to attend the meeting so we can vote on this year's Officers. The Board has put together this proposed slate:

President - - - - - John Banach
Vice President - - - - Don Howdyshell
Treasurer - - - - - Sam Reynolds
Secretary - - - - - Marcia Karchmer
Trustee 2016-2018 - - Cliff Wire
Trustee 2017-2019 - - Dave Roush

Who were the [Club Officers](#) in the past 50 years.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

It's that time again...
By John Kobak

All club memberships have expired on **October 1st**.

As soon as you can, please pay your **2017** membership dues.

As you may know I go south for 5 months starting in November. I would ask all of you to mail your check today or pay on-line by the end of the month. This ensures that your name will be listed in our new yearbook/roster. It doesn't matter when you pay; all memberships expire on September 30th. Mail your check to:

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

You can pay \$20 using Paypal to save yourself time & postage.

Use this link to pay: <http://keelhauler.org/thanks.htm>

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

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

User Name: "dir" and the current 2016 password found on pg 20 of our 2016 yearbook or see the passwords sent out in our monthly e-mail. Note this e-mail also reports if you have already paid for 2017.

If you need to change any of your membership information, use this form:

http://keelhauler.com/khcc_registration.htm

To renew your membership you do not have to fill out a new 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.

**Keelhaulers Minutes
September 13, 2016
By Sam Reynolds**

Elaine Marsh, representative of the Summit Metro Parks, presented information regarding the conservation progress on the Cuyahoga River. Elaine has been affiliated with The Friends of the Crooked River since 1989 and continues her position as conservation chairperson of that club. Her new job with the Summit Metro Parks is separate from Friends and has placed her in a position of leadership for upcoming conservation efforts for the Cuyahoga River. Elaine outlined the major Cuyahoga River initiatives:

Brecksville Dam-Work has occurred since 2005 to remove the dam. It could happen by the summer of 2018, but that action requires public input by September 29, 2016. Go to the website at Cuyahoga River Ecosystem Restoration Canal Diversion Dam Project Environmental Assessment at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuva> and register your opinion and support Option #3. It will cost \$900,000 to remove.

Gorge Dam-Elaine, as a Metro Park employee, is working on the feasibility of the Gorge Dam Removal. The dam has been online since 1914 and holds 832,000 cubic yards of sediment which is partially contaminated. It will cost \$45 to \$50 million to treat and store the sediment. Ohio EPA Great Lakes Recovery will provide funds for the removal. It will cost \$10 million to remove the dam. Of all of the stakeholders, First Energy is the only one that has concerns about the removal. Ohio Representative Frank La Rose initiated and obtained state funds for the Gorge Removal feasibility study. It is possible for the dam to be removed by 2020 through 2022. Elaine requests letters of support. She is working to bring awareness to the community regarding the benefits of dam removal and the great recreation that can occur on a clean river. There will be free Falls education events and slide shows for the community. She requested letters of support to Summit Metro Parks, 975 Treaty Line Rd. Akron, OH 44313.

Combined Sewer Overflow-From North Hill in Akron to the Cuyahoga River there is a water quality issue. The city is attempting to correct the overflow problem. It has a price tag of 1.3 billion.

As a Metro Parks representative Elaine would like to work with Keel-Haulers to improve the conditions of the Cuyahoga River. In addition to dam issues, she requested input on access points. Presently there are nine liveries and several access points on the Cuyahoga.

Other Business

John Banach will check with the coordinators of last year's Cuyahoga Race to determine the level of support requested of the Keel-Haulers.

President Dave Roush announced that the Board of Trustees voted and changed the number of meeting to four for the next year.

Dave also announced that we will be voting at the October meeting for the officers of the club: John Banach, President; Treasurer, Sam Reynolds; Secretary, Marcia Karchmer. A Trustee and Vice President position remain open.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Reynolds,
Treasurer

Monthly Treasurer's Report By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report - September 12, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 279.84
CD 1077	\$2, 277.41
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 257.68</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 814.93
Checking	<u>\$5, 168.75</u>
Total	<u>\$11,983.68</u>

AW Ohiopyle Over the Falls Festival October 1, 2016 By Barry Adams

American Whitewater's "Ohiopyle Over the Falls Festival" will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Come on out and participate in the Falls Race, the Free Style event, or just run laps on the falls! We have prize money. Additional activities will include a Silent Auction and Town Party at 7:30pm.

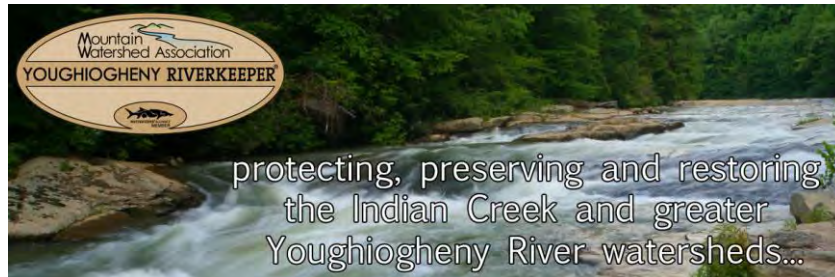
For additional information and registration forms check out <http://www.FallsRace.com> website. We need a lot of Volunteers and for two hours you get a free T-shirt. We need safety paddlers and people to work administration. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Barry Adams or complete volunteer form on the web site. Note - the Corp of Engineers will adjust the water level for the Festival.



50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old
time club members!

Conservation News Submitted by Jim Hunt



2016 Yough Defense Party Scheduled

Our annual Yough Defense Party will happen November 17, 2016 at Falls City Pub in Ohiopyle. Mark your calendar.

This is a major fundraiser for the Mountain Watershed Association. It is also a great party and silent auction.

Paddlers Request Inclusion In Ocoee Talks (TN) posted August 17, 2016 by Kevin Colburn - AW



The decades-old agreements between rafting outfitters and the Tennessee Valley Authority that provide for recreational water releases in the Upper and Middle Ocoee River will expire in 2018. TVA and the outfitters have been attempting to negotiate a new agreement for many months, and thus far no agreement has been reached. This week, American Whitewater and several regional affiliate clubs requested inclusion in those talks to represent our interests in the Ocoee River continuing to be a recreational treasure and economic boon to the region.

The current agreements are contracts under which the public (rafting customers) pays a federal agency (TVA) to release publicly owned water from publicly owned dams. This backwards approach exists only on the Ocoee. American Whitewater does not believe the public should be forced to pay our government for water in rivers.

Federal agencies have estimated that Ocoee River water is worth 30 times more in the river than in the TVA's diversion pipes and hydropower stations. As an agency with an economic development mission, TVA should be putting the Ocoee River's water to its highest and best use - in the river - free of charge. The Ocoee River is the economic lifeblood of the region, and has the potential to support additional growth in the outdoor recreation economy and way of life. The current releases should be continued for years to come.

Decisions on the Ocoee River's water releases affect hundreds of thousands of regional citizens, and should be made in a transparent manner with ample opportunities for public input. Thus far they have been handled as bilateral contract negotiations, instead of a major federal action similar to a National Forest plan or dam relicensing. One of American Whitewater's goals will be to ensure transparency and a good public process in which all citizens can participate.

We look forward to working with TVA, outfitters, paddlers, and regional businesses to create something great on the Ocoee.

We can always use more organizers

Contact: [Dennis Dukeman](#) 330-858-6270 Or [John Kobak](#) . . 440-871-1758

October	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Time to Pay Dues	
9/30,10/1	Upper Yough (MD) Last Saturday Release	32	John Kobak	440-554-1383
10/1	17th Annual Over Ohiopyle Falls Race (PA) Falls Race Info	30	Barry Adams	412-242-4562
10/1,2	(5) Lower Gauley & Upper Gauley (WV) Camping at Battle Run	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/8,9	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Anne Kmieck	216-371-8250
10/8,9	(5) Lower Gauley & Upper Gauley (WV) Camping at Battle Run	27-33	Hugh Barrow	864-680-2529
10/11	Club Annual Election Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
10/15,16	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Fall Color Trip Get Permit	23	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
10/22,23	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	John Banach	330-606-5032
November	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Pay Dues Now	
11/5	(3) Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
11/8	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
11/12,13	(4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Katie & Joe Boyd	740-632-6725
December	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/3	(3) Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
12/14	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
January	2017			
1/1	New Year's Day paddle on the (4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063

2016 Club Officers

President	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
VP:	Dave Roush	440-623-9035
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

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

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Membership Chairman: **John Kobak, 440-871-1758**

**1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145**

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **November issue of the newsletter is **10/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)

October, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news



NOVEMBER, 2016



**No Club Meeting Tuesday, November 8th.
It has been cancelled.**

**Next Club Party:
Wednesday, December 14th**

*at Middleburg Hts Community Center 16000 E.
Bagley Rd*

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: Holiday Potluck Dinner

More details to follow....

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

**Congratulations to our new slate of Officers,
and thank you to all who have served in the past!**

President - - - - - John Banach

Vice President - - - - Don Howdysell

Treasurer - - - - - Sam Reynolds

Secretary - - - - - Marcia Karchmer

Trustee 2015-2017 - - Michael Duvall

Trustee 2016-2018 - - Cliff Wire

Trustee 2017-2019 - - Dave Roush

Who were the [Club Officers](#) in the past 50 years?

2017 Membership Dues are Overdue
By John Kobak

2017 Membership Dues are Overdue

All club memberships end on October 1st each year.

Our club now has almost 300 family memberships in 22 states.

But only about half have renewed their 2017 membership so far.

So, if you haven't gotten around to it, **DO IT TODAY!**

I will be traveling and unable to receive your check after November 10th.

You can use any credit card or a Paypal account and renew using this link:

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

OR

If you still want to mail a check please send a \$20 check for your **2017 Membership Dues**

To:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

But remember if I don't get your check by 11/10/16 you may not be listed in the 2017 Yearbook & Roster.

To check whether or not I have received your renewal, check this updated file:

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

This file is password protected for your security.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2016 password found in our monthly newsletter e-mail. If the last column by your name says 6 and not 7, then you are not recorded as paid for 2017.

John Kobak - Membership Chairman

Keelhaulers Minutes
October 11, 2016
By Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

Present: 12 Members

New Business:

Officer slate accepted.

Treasurer's Report: \$12,550 total funds; C.D.'s are expiring, money will be returned to bank account for decision on investment.

Mike Johnson: asks that the club consider sponsoring sending an early teen/ high school student to Keener's Wilderness Tours camp in Canada, offering contributions toward the \$3,000 fee. Mike asked by President, Dave Roush, to write up requirement suggestions,

such as GPA, activities, Passport need, and Keelhauler Club affiliation. to be presented in the next meeting.

Don Howdyshell shared his September 25 organization of a Cuyahoga River clean-up before the river race: Portage Trail, Bridge to Brentwood Tavern, up/downriver from 2 dams. This occurred after the National Public Lands clean-up. Thank you Don for all your valuable effort!

Roll sessions at Lakewood and Orange are set up. See the Keelhauler website.

Program: John Kobak

Jon gave a slide show of his and Peggy's winter trip to South Carolina and Florida in their motor home. They camped in central Florida, Jekyll Island, Ocala, Ocean Pond Reserve, the Okefenokee Swamp and the Everglades. The National and State Forests do not require reservations and are less crowded! The rivers, wildlife and terrain were beautiful. Thank you, John, for this wonderful presentation!

Next meeting: December 14th, Middleburg Hts. Community Center. Christmas Pot Luck

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

**Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report October 24, 2016**

CD 0402	\$2, 281.17
CD 1077	\$2, 278.74
CD 4709	<u>\$2, 258.35</u>
CD'S (3)	\$6, 818.26
 Checking	 <u>\$7, 204.81</u>
 Total	 <u>\$14,023.07</u>

Frank's Keen Adventure

By Frank Johnson

This year was definitely life changing. I feel like the luckiest kid in the world to get the unexpected chance to attend the Keener's program. For those who don't know about the Keener program, it's a youth development and leadership program where you spend three weeks with professional white water kayakers on the mighty Ottawa river in Canada, that's home to some world class whitewater features. In fact the 2015 Freestyle Whitewater Kayaking Worlds was held on the most famous wave there called Garb.

Getting this opportunity to attend this program would have never have been financially possible for someone like me and it's kinda of a crazy story how this all came about. It all can be traced back to a post I made on a paddling page on Facebook asking if anyone had a Jackson Rockstar for sale.

At the time I was out growing my Liquidlogic playboat and was in the browsing stage for finding a used boat that would fit me. Being a kid and all, I couldn't afford to buy my dream boat which was a 2016 Jackson Rockstar, so I was at least hoping to find a 2014 model or so. After a little while there was a comment from Catherine Flemming about a boat. So I messaged her back. She said her boyfriend paddles for Jackson and has a 2016 competition Rockstar for sale and he would be willing to sell it to me to help me out.

At this point I was thinking this had to be a scam. Anyways I continued the conversation hoping that this was actually real. After asking so many questions about the boat she gave me his name Stephen Wright and told me to message him. So I did and after scrolling through his Facebook I suddenly realized this is actually happening and a professional kayaker is going to sell me his boat! I quickly called my uncle with the exciting news and he really didn't believe me, and I couldn't blame him.

At the time I had a profile picture of me going over a pretty awesome waterfall in PA. So it would have been pretty hard to tell how old I was and Catherine was kinda wondering why I had to ask my uncle about buying the boat first because she didn't realize that I was a kid. So I told her I am still a kid and that I was only 15 years old then she suddenly became more excited. They were able to give me a pretty sweet deal helping me out and within a few weeks before I knew it, I had my dream boat! Several times Catherine mentioned the Keener program and I was pretty interested but I knew my dad wouldn't pay that much for me to go on a kayaking trip. Then in the spring I had some unexpected news.

It was just a typical day but something seemed a little odd when my uncle came over. I was told to go to my room which pretty much never happens unless I am getting into major trouble. Just like any other kid my age would have done, I eavesdropped. I could only make out a few words like insurance, cards, Stephen, and Catherine. This seemed pretty odd because this was my start of my third year kayaking and my uncle is just now worried about my insurance?

Later I ended up finding out that Catherine had started a fundraiser to get me into the Keener's program. At this moment my mouth just dropped and I became speechless. Literally jumping around the house with the strongest feeling of joy I have ever felt. I couldn't help but to message Catherine right away thanking her for doing this. I am still to this day surprised how many people I know who came forward and donated to this "Go Fund Me" account that she had set up. This soon left me counting down the days until I would get a chance to leave the country for my first time and it's for a kayaking trip!

As I counted down my days I couldn't help but to Google as much as I could about this program. This left me with excitement and a little anxiety. Not just the fact that I would be paddling some enormous white water but I would be living for three weeks with approximately twenty other kids that I had never met before.

After going through the hassle of getting my passport I found myself in my uncle's car driving over ten hours up into Canada on a Sunday morning. The car ride seemed to be endless but slowly the hours passed and I couldn't stop thinking about what to expect. I probably drove my uncle nuts with my endless talking on the way up but he seemed to be ok still by the time he dropped me off.

The first day upon arriving at Keeners was a very interesting day. I received a tour around the place we call Keener Ville which is located right on the Ottawa River where I would be staying for the next three weeks. One by one and occasionally a van load of kids from twelve to eighteen started to show up. Everyone seemed pretty nice and we had people ranging all across the east coast from New York to Florida in our session. We also had several Canadians and four New Zealanders. Over the three week period it was pretty cool to hear what type of rivers everyone paddled at home and to hear their story of what got them into kayaking. Little did I know how much fun we would all end up experiencing together.



(Group shot of everyone in session 1.)

The Ottawa River splits into two sections after McCoy's Rapid. These two sections are the Main Channel and the Middle Channel. Each channel doesn't contain very many rapids but there's so much to do it never gets old. The Middle Channel is the easiest channel but does contain the rapid Dragons Tongue which is an intimidating rapid considering you can break your boat if you're one foot off your line. This rapid is typically portaged because it's

normally too dry to run but luckily for my session some of us who decided to run the Middle Channel were able to because the water level the first week was high enough.



(Me running Dragon's Tongue)

The water level was four feet and dropping which is considered high compared to the normal summer flows that are below zero. Keep in mind that the Ottawa River is a very unique river that has insanely huge waves during the spring when the water level is twenty feet plus. The best surf waves were on the Middle channel instead of the Main for our first week. In the normal summer flows you would have Garb and Push button being the two main attractions besides Baby Face. Instead those features were washed out until week two resulting in most of us paddling the Middle several times for the first week. The Main Channel at this level was mostly huge green waves with one good play spot on the entire river where we practiced as much as possible.



(Garb being washed out the first week.)

At the Keener program we didn't just train to do tricks in our playboats. Every day was varied, whether it was where you surfed or what you did. Some of the certifications we had to leave the program knowing was our Standard first aid and CPR/AID and Swiftwater Rescue. We took these on the first weekend and week two's Monday and Tuesday. On the weekend we had the freedom to paddle or rest. Mondays and Tuesdays were more of a training day where we would surf features and just simply enjoy the river. Other days we would do all types of things like racing events on "Race Day Wednesday" where we raced through the rapids timing each other and "Freaky Fresh Freestyle Friday" or also known as "Competition Friday". Competition Friday was a day where we record a freestyle event among the Keeners and then at the end of the day we would watch the footage scoring each other using the ICF scoring chart. On "Big Water Bacon Beatdown Thursday" we would drop into holes at McCoy's Rapid trying to get the best beatdown, intentionally losing control.



(My first time dropping into right side Phils I went for the tuck kind of entry.)

Thursdays were mainly focused on overcoming your fears. In the McCoy's Rapid "Phil's Hole" was the main spot. This hole has granted lots of paddlers their glory by repeatedly thrashing them and providing amusement for their friends as they see their friend getting destroyed trying to ride the beast. I have taken some pretty nice beatdowns in this hole and occasionally swam out. What's really great about the Ottawa River is that it's extremely safe.

Besides the Ottawa River having some extremely huge waves and holes there's not a lot of hazards. There are a few shallow places that you wouldn't want to find yourself but there are really no undercut rocks or pinning spots to be found. If you were to swim one of the rapids there's plenty time to recover before the next. This is what makes the Ottawa such a great learning ground and the best place for a program like this.

The Keener program has definitely changed who I am as a paddler and a person. As a paddler I have progressed in expanding my comfort zone and techniques. One of the things that we did to just about every rapid was to scout it. When scouting the rapid Stephan had

us take many things into consideration so we can make it as fun and safe as possible. Things we would look for are the rocks and how they look along the shore because that would serve as an example to what's under the water. Then we would look at the potential hazards like holes, rocks, and strainers. From there, after looking at the hazards, we would come up with our various lines. You would have to be able to see it once you got back into your boat so you would have to look for key features to guide yourself down the river. These features can be certain waves that you want to key off of. A strategy like this is what all kayakers should use.

Before this program I would be nervous about choosing my own line and now I have enough confidence to do it myself. At the Gauley Fest this year I successfully used this technique choosing my own line going in and out of the Room of Doom. I know a lot of people have run that rapid but I found features that I wanted to be by and guided myself down without following anybody.

As a person I think it has made me better in several ways. I have noticed I have become more responsible, confident, thoughtful, and encouraging for others. Also one thing I definitely have taken from this program besides on the river skills is that I am not as afraid of public speaking as I use to be. This comes from speech night which is held every Monday. Speech night honestly had me worried quite a bit because sometimes you had to make up your speech on the spot and with me not being much of a social person I got pretty nervous but then I realized it wasn't so bad. In reality there's just so much that you end of taking out of this program you don't even realize it. This wouldn't have been possible without being around kids my age and the coaches who are enthusiastic about kayaking.

I could go on forever about so many things we did at Keeners. I would highly recommend the program for any parent who has a child who's really passionate about kayaking. This program is so far one of the best things that has happened to me. Thanks again to everyone who made this experience possible. You have changed my life in such a positive way that I will never forget.



50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

**Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old
time club members!**

Indoor Pool Sessions for 2016-2017

We will have four pool locations near Cleveland, OH - East ([Orange](#)), West ([Lakewood](#)) & South ([Canton](#) or , [Akron](#))

Roll Instruction: Please use [KHCC Message Board](#) to find persons willing to provide instruction. The forum is also a good place to find folks with loaner kayaks and gear

Sea kayak rescue practice: Clean Sea Kayaks are welcome at both Lakewood and Orange High School pools

For more information contact John Banach j_banacka@hotmail.com . . . 330-606-5032

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions - 2016-17

Four sessions are scheduled for this Winter, Saturday afternoons 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/11 - 4 PM to 6 PM

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 \$7 per person per session (\$6 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. So print one and fill it out before you arrive.

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. [Map to Orange HS](#)

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.

Kayak Roll Sessions

Work on your Eskimo roll in the comfort of our heated pool so you will be ready for the river this spring. Participants must bring their own boats (clean boats only, please) and gear. **Helmets are required** for anyone entering the pool. There are experienced boaters on hand to give pointers to new kayakers. Enter the pool area through West pool deck doors starting at 3:50pm. Participants must fill out a registration form & pay before being allowed to enter

the water. Please bring exact change each day.

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 our [Message Board](#).

For more information contact Dave Roush rockyroush@gmail.com 440-623-9035

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions - 2016-17

Six sessions are scheduled this Winter, 12/17, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/4 -3:00 to 5:00PM Saturday Pool time starts at 3:00 PM and ends promptly at 5:00 PM. Cannot enter the building until 2:50 PM. All 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. Please remember **helmets are required**.

Directions to Lakewood High School Pool

Lakewood High School is at 14100 Franklin Blvd., 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. Cannot enter the building until 2:50 PM. [Map to Lakewood HS](#)

Cancellation Policy

If Lakewood High School pool is closed, that information will likely be available on the pool's voicemail at (216) 529-4014 or see our [Message Board](#).

For more information contact Karl Nelson karlnelsonphdcip@gmail.com - - 330-497-2483

For Lakewood Pool information contact Matt Demaline - Aquatics Manager
Matt.Demaline@lakewoodcityschools.org - - 216-529-4081

Meyers Lake YMCA Pool Roll Sessions - 2016-17

Sessions are now scheduled for **every Sunday starting 11/27 to 2/26** for Meyers Lake YMCA Pool in Canton, OH. 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26. Possible 3/5 and 3/12 if winter is still strong and rivers are frozen.

Sunday Pool Session start at 8:45am and end promptly at 10:45am. The YMCA has agreed to open the back door at 8:30am to allow us time to bring in our kayaks/gear. A charge of \$5-\$7 per kayak/person per session should cover the use of the pool.

Directions to Canton Meyers Lake YMCA Pool

The Meyers Lake YMCA is located at 1333 North Park Ave NW in Canton. Easily located 1 mile west of I-77 using the 13th St exit. Turn Right on Park Street and you can't miss the YMCA on the building. If you see the lake on your right you have gone too far.

Meyers Lake YMCA

There are a few simple guidelines to follow. All boaters will bring their kayaks/gear through the back door. All kayaks and gear must be clean before getting to the YMCA. No seal launching. It is important that all kayaks are out of the YMCA building immediately after the session ends, take your kayak out the back door to the parking lot then proceed with showers and changing. Please pay me (or designated person) at the end of each session. Please remember **helmets are required**.

Format for the Canton Roll Sessions will remain as in the past, first hour roll practice second hour kayak soccer.

Cancellation Policy

Please check the Keel-Haulers [Message Board](#) the morning of a session, a post will be there in the event the YMCA needs to cancel.

For more information contact John Banach j_banacka@hotmail.com 330-606-5032

Akron University Pool Roll Sessions

2016-2017 not announced yet.

General Pool Rules

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

Hand paddles will be available for learning hand rolls.

To maintain a good relationship with the Orange & Lakewood, Canton or Akron, 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. For those interested, club membership forms will be available at the door. Annual club dues are only \$20 per family. Click to [Join Our Club](#)
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 the Open Swim session ends at 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 becomes 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.

For Sale



Sale Price \$130,000

873 BEAVER CREEK DR, BRUCETON MILLS WV 26525

Centrally located in paddling community - 10 mins from Upper Yough, 30 minutes to Cheat, LBS and 40 mins to Lower Yough. Almost heaven is where you will be in this log cabin nestled on 4 acre lot in West Virginia. Sleeps 5 comfortably. Extensive interior renovations. Enjoy a quiet evening by the fireplace, or a quiet evening enjoying woodland views surrounding the covered front porch.

List Price:	\$130,000	Total Taxes:	\$230
Bedrooms:	2	Full Baths:	1
Year Built:	1993	Renovated:	2006

[More Pictures & Information](#)

November	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Pay Dues Now	
11/5	(3) Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
11/8	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts -CANCELLED		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
11/12,13	(4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Katie & Joe Boyd	740-632-6725
December	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/3	(3) Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Dennis Dukeman	330-858-6270
12/14	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
January	2017			
1/1	New Year's Day paddle on the (4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063

2017 Club Officers

President	John Banach	330-606-5032
VP:	Don Howdyshell	330-671-0825
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
Treasurer:	Sam Reynolds	330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, 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 **December issue of the newsletter is **11/23/16**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

701 Forrest Ave.

Geneva, IL 60134

peetzaguy@aol.com

November, 2016



Keelhauler's Ka-news

DECEMBER, 2016



Next Club Meeting:

Wednesday, December 14th

at Middleburg Hts Community Center, 16000 E. Bagley Rd

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: Holiday Potluck Dinner

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

A-E: Salad or Vegetable

F-L: Bread or Appetizer

M-R: Dessert or Fruit

S-Z: Main dish or Casserole

The club will supply beverages, plates and plastic ware.

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

**Congratulations to our new slate of Officers,
and thank you to all who have served in the past!**

President - - - - - John Banach

Vice President - - - - Don Howdyshe

Treasurer - - - - - Sam Reynolds

Secretary - - - - - Marcia Karchmer

Trustee 2015-2017 - - Michael Duvall

Trustee 2016-2018 - - Cliff Wire

Trustee 2017-2019 - - Dave Roush

Who were the [Club Officers](#) in the past 50 years?

Message from the New President By John Banach



Greeting to all members of the Keel Haulers. I'd like to introduce myself as the newly inducted President of our Club. I am honored to hold this position and lead our club into 2017. Since 1967, our club has grown, adapted, and persevered. I feel that one of the greatest values of the Keel Haulers is the broad spectrum our members. From canoeing, SUP, lake, sea, and river kayaking, we all have a zest for life, paddling, and all types of outdoor activities. There really is something for everyone.

A little about me... I was born in New Jersey 39 years ago. Having two parents who were avid canoers, they would take my family on day trips to the Delaware River or local lakes in NJ, PA, and NY. I was hooked on paddling from a very young age. When I was about 9 or 10 years old, I was on vacation up in NY State visiting some family friends. We were invited to go to a whitewater slalom race on a local river. I had never seen a kayak before. I had never seen anyone boat a rapid before. In and out of the gates, ferrying back and forth in their fiberglass cruisers. I said to myself, one day I will be like those guys.

A few years later at a YMCA summer camp in PA, they offered some afternoon lake kayaking instruction. I begged my mom for the \$100 to join the 10 day class. Boy were those Perception Dancers cool. I learned all the basic strokes, learned wet exit and to roll. I even learned to hand roll. I didn't realize it but the class also offered a 2 day trip on the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers. A class 2+ trip with three 18 year old guides and seven 12 year old new boaters. I was hooked on my new found sport. Nothing could be cooler than what I was doing. For the next few summer's, I took the same ten day class and trip. Never knowing where that would lead me later in life.

Going to college in the White Mountains of New Hampshire opened up more doors to more rivers. Class in the morning, kayaking in the afternoon. Or vice versa. And sometimes, skipping class and kayaking all day.

After college, I found myself paddling less and less. In my search for a good job I; moved to NY, MA, CT, NJ, and finally Ohio in 2004. My first few years in Ohio my boats almost never left the garage. When they did, it was lake or flat river paddling only. Little did I know there was so much whitewater so close to me. I guess I just wasn't looking hard enough. As work and life consumed me, I paddled less and less, and then almost never at all. Fast forward a few years, I had a house, a wife, a steady and stressful job, and a new baby. I needed an outlet to relax and de-stress. I always thought about getting back into boating.

That is when I found the Keel Haulers! My first experience meeting other club members was at a Pot Luck Christmas party. I showed up and knew no one. I remember everyone looking at me strangely as I was in my suit and tie, just coming straight from work. Never one not to strike up a conversation, I sat down and started asking questions. Only understanding later that at my table was Jim Hunt, Mike Duvall, Cliff Wire, and Marcia Karchner. Listening to their paddling tales and stories over dinner, I knew then and there I was in great company.

The next few years have flown by even faster. Three years with the club and now I paddle as often as I can. I have made paddling a family affair. I get no better joy than being able to enjoy the paddling experience with others. Whether WW kayaking, river or lake canoeing, it's never enough. It has brought my family closer together and made me a better father, a better husband, and a better and more responsible person as a whole. For that I am forever grateful to the club.
Looking forward to 2017.

As your new president, I have lots to catch up on, lot's to tackle, and even more to learn. But more important to me, I have many more members to meet and spend time with. Isn't that why we join a club? One of my goals for 2017 as your president is to try and reach out and meet as many members as I can. To attend as many club functions, races, and gatherings as I possibly can. I have lots to learn and so many great people to meet. There is no manual on how to be the most effective president for the club, I can only promise that I will do my best.

I take this new responsibility seriously. Wait, a paddling club with a serious President? Yes, and I'll tell you why. This club has been around for almost 50 years. This club is the legacy of all of the members before me. I truly value all of their years of service, time, effort, and commitment to keeping the club active. My other goal is to continue to keep the club fun, spirited, and attractive to new prospective members. With your help and support, we can continue to keep the Keel Haulers legacy going for another 50 years.

Thank you all for your support. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

SYOTR

John C Banach

Keelhaulers Minutes November, 2016

There was no November meeting, and therefore no minutes.

Has Your Membership Expired?

Has Your Membership Expired?

Our club's 2016 membership year ended on October 1st.
There are still a few members who have not paid their 2017 dues.

Your monthly password e-mail will warn you if this is your last newsletter.

Since I will not be around to get your check until December 16th please try to pay your \$20 on-line using Paypal.

You can use any credit card or a Paypal account and renew using this link:

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

OR

If you still want to mail a check please send a \$20 check for your **2017 Membership Dues**
To:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1174 Karla Dr
Clinton, OH 44216

To check whether you have paid or not, check this updated file:

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

This file is password protected for your security.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2016 password found in our monthly newsletter e-mail. If the last column by your name says 6 and not 7, then you are not recorded as paid for 2017.

Jim Hunt is completing the **2017 yearbook & Roster** and there is no reason for you to have incorrect information or not even be listed in the new yearbook. Take a look at all your membership information using this link.

http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/Members_Allfields.pdf

Note: Your information spans 2 pages.

Only paid-up members will be listed in the yearbook, the cut-off date for new yearbook is 12/26/16.

John Kobak - Membership Chairman
[Where in the World is Kobak Now](#)

50 YEARS OF THE KEEL-HAULERS

Still looking for some good club stories from some of the old
time club members!

Monthly Treasurer's Report By Sam Reynolds

Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report November 26, 2016

CD 0402	\$2, 281.84
CD 1077	\$2, 279.41
CD 4709	\$ <u>00</u>
CD'S (3)	\$4, 461.25
Checking	<u>\$11424.34</u>
Total	<u>\$15,985.59</u>

CD 7367 expired and \$2,259.13 was transferred to checking.
The Board will determine the FY17 budget at their next meeting.

CALL FOR PHOTOS By Jim Hunt

Attention all photographers. The Keelhaulers 2017 Yearbook is being compiled and your photos are needed. Photos of boating, club activities, and outdoor landscapes are welcome.

Photos should have been taken at 300 dpi or greater in density and be 1 mb (or larger) or so in file size. The actual dimensions of the photos are not critical. Color or black&white are welcome. With each photo submit: what river/rapid (or landscape or event), who is in the photo, and who took the photo.

Photos can be submitted by e-mail to: jhunt4115@yahoo.com but please limit the size of each e-mail to about 5 mb in size. If you want to submit a bunch of photos, burn them on a CD and mail them to: Jim Hunt, 275 Tolbert St., Wadsworth, OH 44281

Photos are needed by mid-December. E-mail me at the above address with any questions.

Jim Hunt, Yearbook Editor

Conservation News by Jim Hunt

Reprinted from American Rivers: REMOVING DAMS CAN SAVE LIVES

American Rivers is calling on all federal dam-owning agencies to become more active in removing dams and restoring rivers.

Jessie Thomas-Blate | October 19, 2016



Spoonville Dam on the Farmington River (CT) prior to removal.

Dams fail. It's inevitable and it's happening now.

Just recently, Hurricane Matthew caused widespread flooding and more than 20 dam failures in North and South Carolina.

Rewind one year to October 2015— same place, different storm. One out of every 50 dams regulated by the State of South Carolina failed (plus hundreds of unregulated dams). This was the second most costly environmental disaster in South Carolina's history — \$12 billion. And more devastating than the financial cost is the loss of life (so far 59 people in the U.S.

between the two storms) and destruction of homes and businesses (more than 1 million structures destroyed in Hurricane Matthew).

Fast forward to early October 2016, thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes due to the threat of dam failures in North Carolina. Plugging a hole the size of a truck will require more than a little duct tape.

Part of the problem is that we aren't thinking ahead. Many dams look very formidable. Big walls. Strong. But concrete breaks down over time, especially when subject to the forces of nature. So does brick and mortar. And earthen dams? No doubt.

We need a commonsense approach to managing our infrastructure.

WHY DO DAMS FAIL?

Dam failure can result from any number of issues, including: inadequate spillway design, spillways blocked by debris causing dam overtopping, land use change causing increased runoff, outdated technology and design, changing weather patterns that alter flow rates, defects in the dam's foundation, settlement of the dam crest, internal erosion of the dam caused by seepage (this can happen around pipes, animal burrows, plant roots, other cracks), structural failure of the materials used in dam construction, and/or inadequate maintenance of the structure.

Dams are deteriorating faster than they can be repaired. According to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the cost to rehabilitate our nation's dams would be more than \$70 billion (high hazard dams alone would cost \$18.2 billion to rehabilitate).

Meanwhile, state dam safety offices are historically underfunded with a limited number of staff responsible for inspecting hundreds of dams. This tends to result in a focus on only those larger structures that pose a higher risk to life and public and private property should they fail. Smaller structures may be inspected infrequently, if at all, creating a threat to public safety. While many of these dams are "low hazard," that is not the same as no hazard. Failure of small dams has been known to wreak environmental damage and cause significant downstream damage to things like driveways or roads.

There are also social behavior issues surrounding dams, which confound safety concerns. People seem to love to play on, in, and around dams. Paddling, fishing, swimming, sunbathing. It all seems fun until you get sucked into the hydraulic undertow.

THIS IS A HUGE PROBLEM. HOW CAN WE BEGIN TO TACKLE IT?

There are tens of thousands of dams around the country that no longer serve the purpose they were built to provide and whose removal could eliminate the cost and liability associated with owning a dam. Unless they are well maintained, their condition only gets worse every year. The most cost-effective and permanent way to deal with obsolete, unsafe dams is to remove them.

We support modifications to state dam safety programs that increase dam owner responsibility for dam inspections, as recommended by the Association of State Dam Safety

Officials. States that have adopted this approach have been able to ensure that more of their state's outdated and deteriorating dams have safety inspections and that dam owners follow up on the results of those inspections by repairing and maintaining their dams. Owners of dams that no longer function as intended may also find removal more beneficial than the cost of ownership.

Recently, U.S Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell highlighted the critical need to remove obsolete dams to improve the safety of our nation's rivers. In recent years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has expanded their technical assistance capacity in some regions, partnering with local groups like American Rivers in the Southeast to provide design and deconstruction assistance on dam removal projects. This effort has grown from a series of small demonstration projects to what is now a highly capable, trained team of demolition experts within the USFWS who are now able to take on a wider diversity of dam removal projects.

Collaborative public-private partnerships like this are incredibly important if we are ever to address the massive number of obsolete dams still clogging our nation's rivers. Increasing the capacity of federal agencies to actively engage in projects helps to reduce the ultimate cost of removal and increases our ability to address the backlog of problem dams.

Ensuring strong state and federal programs for removing outdated dam infrastructure is a commonsense approach for eliminating hazards, increasing resiliency in vulnerable areas, and restoring our rivers for the people, fish, and wildlife that rely on them.

Pictures from Beth Grafiing taken Labor Day weekend on the Upper Yough





For Sale



Sale Price \$130,000

873 BEAVER CREEK DR, BRUCETON MILLS WV 26525

Centrally located in paddling community - 10 mins from Upper Yough, 30 minutes to Cheat, LBS and 40 mins to Lower Yough. Almost heaven is where you will be in this log cabin nestled on 4 acre lot in West Virginia. Sleeps 5 comfortably. Extensive interior renovations. Enjoy a quiet evening by the fireplace, or a quiet evening enjoying woodland views surrounding the covered front porch. [More Pictures & Information](#)

List Price:	\$130,000	Total Taxes:	\$230
Bedrooms:	2	Full Baths:	1
Year Built:	1993	Renovated:	2006

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January	2017			
1/1	New Year's Day paddle on the (4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063

**Start to plan to be a 2017 trip organizer -
Pick a trip from last year. Contact: [John Banach](#) 330-606-5032**

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Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
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KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

701 Forrest Ave.

Geneva, IL 60134

peetzaguy@aol.com

December, 2016

