

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

❄️ **JANUARY, 2023**



Next meeting to be announced....

**President's Message
Upcoming Events
By Brian Smart**

We would like to Thank everyone who came to the Christmas Party! We had a good showing and I lost count of how many people came! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Slip Fest 2023!

We are very happy to inform the club with the help of our sub committees and expressly Matt Pascal we are on track to get a permit to hold a classic style race on Slippery Rock Creek! The club is also planning on holding a Festival at Cheeseman's Campground, and Megan Thompson's Annual Swap meet all in the same weekend. The date for all of this is set for April 15th – 16th!

All of this is going to take a lot of help from volunteers we have formed 3 subcommittees but will need more help expressly in the area of Safety during the race. If you would like to help out in anyway, please reach out to clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com and we will get you connected it the appropriate team.

A play park/wave you ask?

We have formed a new subcommittee headed up by Anthony Lazzaro to explore the idea of getting a new play wave or park somewhere in Ohio and how the club can influence that. If this is something that interests you, please reach out to Anthony at alazzaro@gmail.com

Pool Sessions!

The cold weather is here. Do not let that roll get rusty! We are very lucky in Ohio to have access to so many pools. Check out <https://www.keelhauler.com/roll-sessions> it will have an update by the first of the year and is full of useful info about all the pools! Be sure to check out the FREE pool sessions at Perry High School where we meet and play kayak soccer every other week!

Cleveland Boat Show

The club will be setting up a table sharing a space with Safe Water Ohio at the boat show Jan 12-15th. If you would like to volunteer to promote at the table or present to a crowd in their pool, reach out to clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com. We have created a subcommittee for this event as well.

Brian Smart

Keel-hauler Meeting Minutes 12/10/2022 By Jennifer Hughes

Keel-Haulers Canoe Club, Inc.
12/10/22
Hines Hill Conference Center
1403 W Hines Hill Rd
Peninsula, OH 44264

Called to order @5:45 p.m.

Members in attendance :

Brian Smart, Gus Chacon, Dodie Bush, Scott Mactavish, Ted Moore, Analeigh Koch, Ashlee Gerner, Rachel Faber, Zena Barbarian, Andrea Morgan, Dave Roush, Francis Hoven, John Zevenbergen, Dan Osdyke, Cliff Wire, John Banach, Tim Hughes, Jennifer Hughes, Jacki Gosselin Zevenbergen, Brennan Stivebuck, Anna Ayoub, Mike Gillam, Linda Kuhajda, Anthony Lazzaro, Paul McDonald, and Meredith Perkins.

Agenda:

Reading and approval of minutes

Standing order:

-Club officer still needed for Sea Kayaker position

New Business :

- Rachel Faber has been added to website design as well as redesigned the fliers and new banner designs.
- Slip Fest is in process of being planned for April 14-16, 2023
- Volunteers still needed for the fest, race and Memorial Swap Meet

- Cheesman's will allow use for race day
- TRPC willing to participate
- Race will run from Eckert to Harris
- Sarah Heinz Camp allowing river access in return for demonstrations on kayaking and water safety to campers Summer 2023
- Sign up on the website
- Perry High School is still having pool sessions Sundays 9am - 11am at 3737 13th SW, Massillon, OH 44646
- Boat Show is January 12-15, 2023. Presenters are still needed. Water Safe Ohio donating table area and passes to presenters.

Meeting called to adjournment at 6:45pm by Brian Smart. John Banach 2nd the motion.

2022 Membership Wrap-up From John Kobak

We ended up the 2022 calendar year with **391 family memberships**, the most members for past 20 years. In 2022 we had **378** members. Our average membership for the past 10 years is **321**.

A year ago, we had 301 members who had paid their 2022 dues by the end of December; today we still only have 302 paid-up members for 2023. But a big positive for future club membership is, we already have **130** members who have paid their dues in advance for 2024, taking advantage of the special price. We usually sign up about 60 new members each year, last year 85 new members joined. I hope the club keeps providing reasons for all these paddlers to rejoin the club each year.

This year we offered members a way to join but not be listed on any of our on-line rosters. So if you do not want your membership information listed in our password protected yearbook directory or in any of our on-line directories. Send me an e-mail to membership@keelhauler.org - [Do Not List my Name anywhere](#)

Take a look at your membership information using this link.

https://www.keelhauler.com/s/Yearbook23_pw.pdf

Use the New 2023 Membership Password

Our membership password **has changed for 2023**, and is shown in the monthly e-mail sent. Make a note of the password; it will remain the same for all of 2023.

I usually update this roster twice a month to make it easy to find new members.

John Kobak – Membership Chairman

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of December 22, 2022
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,320.29

CD 1077 \$2,320.02

CD'S (2) \$4,640.31

Checking \$12,299.84

Total \$16,940.15

**Cuyahoga River Update
From Ted Moore**

Important update from CVNP for those of us who paddle the Cuyahoga River inside Park boundaries:

"Tree work has begun near Boston Access. Last week, a temporary service road was cleared for construction equipment to begin work on the pedestrian bridge that will cross the river, landing where current access is. This week our crews have been clearing trees along the banks at the construction site. We will likely have a temporary closure at Boston Access soon. Can you have your folks portage at the 271 wave and park in the gravel lot east of the old Boston Store? New access will be north of the pedestrian bridge and south of Boston Mill Bridge, still on river right."

"I will let you know if a complete closure goes into effect (it would come down from park engineers), but until then folks should be okay to use current access. Just use caution if you see workers in the area and pardon any additional mess. All trees being removed along banks are being dropped on land, not into the river. In case anyone asks."

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about any of this, please email Ted Moore at fjmoore3@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed From Seth Anderson

The Club is looking for volunteers to join the safety team for the Slip Race April 15th and 16th. If you have attended a SWRC and are willing to help, please reach out to Seth Anderson on Facebook or Hovarem@gmail.com

Whitewater Survey for Whitewater Park Interest From Anthony Lazzaro

Attention whitewater park enthusiasts: I need your help submitting survey responses. It's a short survey that will take 1 or 2 minutes to complete.

I attended the Public Info Meeting for Chagrin River Restoration at Daniels Park and Dam in Willoughby tonight. I think we have a good opportunity to push for a whitewater park, or at least the installation of one or two whitewater features, at Daniels Park. There used to be a low-head dam here. In 2004, the dam collapsed due to a flood, and this created the current whitewater feature. It's a nice wave that's surfable around 1,000 fps. In the comments, I'll link a video of Mark Spang showing off his surfing skills. The current project is fully funded and includes the removal of the broken dam, stream/wetland restoration of the Chagrin River, and riverbank stabilization. The design is 30% complete, the permits are almost due, and the construction will be completed in 2023. The Chagrin Watershed Partners is seeking public input to complete the project design and they are reaching out to local outdoor clubs. One design item they mentioned is the installation of a boulder garden for the fish population.

I gave a pitch for a whitewater park. I said I agreed with the removal of the broken dam, but that would unfortunately remove a whitewater feature in the area. It would be fitting to install a new whitewater feature there after the dam is removed. It would also add to the already existing amenities at the park, which include baseball fields, a basketball court, pavilions, etc. I mentioned that new whitewater features would draw kayakers from hundreds of miles and connect more people to the river, etc. I showed some videos of other whitewater parks like RiverScape River Run in Dayton, Ohio and Mill City Park in Franklin, NH. I was told that a whitewater park was worth some serious consideration, and a number of attendees were excited about it.

I was told, however, that the current funding and permitting are geared more for the dam removal and restoration, but a phase two could potentially include these types of recreational features.

That being said, if we could get people to complete this survey to show how much interest there would be in some whitewater features that would be great. For question 3, you can select "Turbulent water

flows that are interesting/challenging for expert paddlers”. For question 4, you could say you’re concerned about the removal of the current whitewater feature and would like it replaced with some new features for kayakers. For question 6, you could say that there’s no whitewater park in the area and this could be a good place for freestyle competitions, etc.

I appreciate your help.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/chagrinriverdanielpark>

or



Current Roll Sessions
Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers
Canoe Club (keelhauler.com)

Check out the website for current locations and times or just click on the link above!

Keel-hauler Trip Planning **Calendar of Events on our website**

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com/calendar-of-events)

Sunday, January 8, 2023

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (4)

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (5)

Sunday, February 5, 2023

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (6)

Sunday, February 19, 2023

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (7)

Friday, March 17, 2023

4:45pm St. Paddy Paddle and Pub in Peninsula

First Aid Course Signup

You can get more information about the class and sign up now at <https://campaignpayitforward.enrollware.com/enroll?id=7092574> , which can also be found at [Kayaking Wilderness First Aid — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com/kayaking-wilderness-first-aid)

Swiftwater Rescue Courses 2023

Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O June 9th - 11th [Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O Dreams 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com/common-sense-swift-water-rescue-with-h2o-dreams-2023)

Sign-ups will go live January 1st. You must be a Keel-Hauler member for one year to sign up for H2O

Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy June 23rd - 25th

Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy 2023 ([keelhauler.com](https://www.keelhauler.com))

Happy New Year!

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, temporarily send to: Keel-hauler Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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.com.

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 2023** issue of the newsletter is **1/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews

January 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news



FEBRUARY, 2023



Next Keel-hauler meeting:

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Cafe Rewind, 1763 Goodyear Boulevard, Akron, OH, 44305 ([map](#))

The Keel-Hauler's Canoe Club will be meeting in Akron for our February Meeting. Please join us. All are welcome! The club will provide donuts and drinks, but members are welcome to byob or food and hang out before or after the meeting. The doors will open to members at 5:00pm and we will start the meeting promptly at 6:00pm.

Can't come in person? We are trying to add a digital option to our meeting.

Any questions? Contact Brian Smart at President@keelhauler.org.

Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report as of January 30, 2023 From Kelly Miller

CD 0402 \$2,320.49

CD 1077 \$2,320.41

CD'S (2) \$4,640.90

Checking \$14,618.56

Total \$19,259.46

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Construction Update
From Ted Moore**



As many of you know, Brian and I have been working with Ryan Ainger, the CVNP's River Program Ranger, to plan for the temporary closure of the takeout we now use at the end of the very popular Lock 29 to Boston section of the Cuyahoga River. Part of that effort has been to identify an alternative takeout for KHCC members and other river users after construction of the new pedestrian bridge from the Visitor Center to the Boston Store begins in a few weeks.

Working with Ryan and other NPS employees, a site was selected upstream of the current takeout and clear of the construction zone that will close the river further downstream. The temporary takeout will be on river right, about 50 feet downstream of the 271 overpass immediately after the unnamed (as far as I know) stream in the photo. The walk from there to the Boston overflow parking lot is about 5 minutes longer than from our regular takeout. The path will be improved, according to Ryan, by putting down natural material that will smooth out the gradient (referred to by Ryan as the "drop-off" in the email below) and harden the treadway.

Ryan's email read as follows:

"Construction will begin mid-February, so we have a few more weeks before we have to worry about the closure. In the meantime, I will take a look at the drop-off you mentioned to see if I can lay some stone down, shouldn't be a problem. So far, there were no issues with using the proposed path to portage."

I asked if there was any other information Ryan could share with us or anything we could do to be of assistance to him and his team. He responded, "Please continue to take photos of any hazards or issues while you or other members are out. We took the [NPS staff] raft out yesterday [January 13] from Bath to Bolanz. The river was clear, but we did report some high-voltage powerlines that have some serious undercut beneath the supports. Will probably end up being a construction project down the road."

This article will be posted to social media. The river closure for the construction project and the temporary takeout will be an agenda item at the next meeting. All the more reason to be there.

Possible Play Park/Wave?

A play park/wave you ask?

We have formed a new subcommittee headed up by Anthony Lazzaro to explore the idea of getting a new play wave or park somewhere in Ohio and how the club can influence that. If this is something that interests you, please reach out to Anthony at alazzaro@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed From Seth Anderson

The Club is looking for volunteers to join the safety team for the Slip Race April 15th and 16th. If you have attended a SWRC and are willing to help, please reach out to Seth Anderson on Facebook or Hovare@gmail.com or click on the link below.



APRIL 14-16 2023 AT BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

Join us for a weekend full of paddling, community, gear swaps, camping, and kayak racing. More information to come!

We need volunteers!

If you're interested in helping as a volunteer for the event, please fill out the form linked below. Positions we need to fill include a Race Safety Team & Race Timing Directors. [**VOLUNTEER FORM**](#)

Race Information:

April 15 between 1 - 4 p.m. McConnell's Mill State Park

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON

Hosted by: The Keel-hauler's Canoe Club

Race Director: Matt Pascal

Festival Director: Brian Smart

Safety Director: Seth Anderson

The race course will be from Eckert Bridge to Harris Bridge, This section is 3.3 miles long and is rated Class II by American Whitewater. [American Whitewater Section Description>](#)

All foot traffic will be restricted to road surfaces, the steps from Eckert Bridge, and the launch area adjacent to the bridge.

Festival Information: Coming Soon!

Accommodations: Breakneck Campground

breakneckcampground.com/

1757 Cheeseman Rd, Portersville, PA 16051

Cleveland Boat Show From Brian Smart

Had a great time at the [Progressive Cleveland Boat Show](#)! Here are some pictures we gathered! It was a huge success, and we are looking forward to doing it again next year!

Thanks to everyone that made it possible!

Ted Moore
Jacki Gosselin
Zevenbergen
John Zevenbergen
Mark Spang
Dan Maddock
Douglas Waltman
Brennan Jay Stinebuck
T.j. Keenan

Trisha Garrettson
Kelly Rudolph
Jeremiah Richard
Annaleigh Koch
Matthew Fredmonsky
Steve Miller
Francis Hoven
(Hope I didn't miss anyone)

Keel-Haulers Canoe Club
Water Safe Ohio
Cleveland Metroparks
LoCo Yaks
Marked Imagery
<https://lakeeriekayakfishing.com/>









New River Gorge NP&P expands National Preserve Area

News Release Date: January 17, 2023

Glen Jean, W.Va. — New River Gorge National Park and Preserve has added 45 acres of land to the area designated as a preserve. The tract is located on Beury Mountain just east of the Thurmond area and will provide easier access to lands that are already in the national preserve.

"This property is a great addition to the national preserve portion of the park where hunting is allowed," said New River Gorge National Park and Preserve Superintendent Charles Sellars. "It connects two previously non-contiguous sections and assures that hunters and other users have easier access to an existing 85-acre section of the preserve."

Purchase of the tract was made possible by the legislation that redesignated New River Gorge from a national river to a national park and preserve. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021, enacted in December of 2020, also modified the authorized boundaries of the park, allowing for purchase of this tract.

Access to the newly purchased property will be limited initially as the park establishes suitable areas for parking and marks the boundary. For updates and more information about the national park and preserve, visit nps.gov/neri or follow the park on social media.



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Sunday, February 5

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (6)

Sunday, February 19

9:00am Keel-Hauler's Free Pool Practice @ Perry High (7)

Saturday, February 25

Potomac Attainment Race, Held by Great Falls Foundation. Visit them on Facebook at [Greatfallsfoundation.org](#).

Tuesday, February 28

6:00pm Keel-hauler Meeting, Café Rewind, Akron

First Aid Course Signup

[Kayaking Wilderness First Aid — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#)

Swiftwater Rescue Courses 2023

Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O June 9th - 11th [Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O Dreams 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#) and Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy June 23rd - 25th [Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#). Sign-ups will go live **January 1st**. You must be a Keel-hauler member for one year to qualify for H2O.



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Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **March 2023 issue of the newsletter is **2/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

February 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

🍀 **MARCH, 2023**



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Can't come in person? We are trying to add a digital option to our meeting.

Any questions? Contact Brian Smart at President@keelhauler.org.

March Paddling Events Sponsored by Jacki Zevenbergen

Fri, March 17, 4:45pm – 7:45pm, **St. Paddy Paddle and Pub in Peninsula** Meet at Lock 29 at 4:45 to set shuttle. Let us know if you really need to come a little later and you may be able to just launch. Sunset will be after 7:30. Join us after for food and drink in Peninsula.

March 22 & 29 **Wednesdays on the Water** We meet at the Lock 29 trailhead, drop our gear and leave to set shuttle at 5.

March 25 & 26. **Slippery Rock Creek Spring Opener** The plan is to paddle Slippery Rock on Saturday and Sunday. A lot will depend on what the levels are and who decides to

participate. Every effort will be made to include the lower section so newer paddlers can join us. It will be cold so proper gear is important. We will probably camp at Breakneck Campground.

Be sure to [register](#) so that you get updates on the plans.

**Slip Race 2023
By Matt Pascal**

The first ever classic downriver race on Slippery Rock Creek ("SlipRace") is being hosted by KH as part of the SlipFest event April 14 - 16. The 3.3 mile race from Eckert Bridge to Harris Bridge, initially proposed to the club by 2022 US National Wildwater Team (and KH) member Matt Pascal, will go down during the festival on Saturday afternoon after months of planning. Boat classes cover every kind of craft between race boats (> 14 ft) and playboats (< 8 ft) and even include SUPs, tandems, canoes, and inflatables so it is possible for everybody to be competitive. With decent weather and flow, this could be a very exciting race!

McConnells Mill State Park and PA Fish and Boat Commission have granted authorization for the race, festival sponsors have committed their support (Falls Outdoor Co., Public Lands, Breakneck Campground, Highwater Hobbies, 3 Rivers Outdoor Co, and Immersion Research at last check), volunteers are signed up for safety, registration, and timing, and now racers are starting their training! Shuttle and festival entry is included in the race entry fee of \$35.

Interested racers and volunteers should contact Matt at matt.pascal@gmail.com with any questions they may have. But don't wait too long, because the race is capped at 117 total racers. Sign up for the race at <https://www.keelhauler.com/slip-fest-2023>

**Still Looking for Volunteers
From Seth Anderson**

The Club is looking for volunteers to join the safety team for the Slip Race April 15th and 16th. If you have attended a SWRC and are willing to help, please reach out to Seth Anderson on Facebook or Hovarem@gmail.com or click on this link [VOLUNTEER FORM](#). Positions we need to fill include a Race Safety Team & Race Timing Directors.

APRIL 14-16, 2023
AT BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

HOSTED BY THE KEEL-HAULERS CANOE CLUB



SLIP FEST
2023

**GEAR VENDORS, CAMPING, GEAR SWAP,
KAYAK RACE, MUSIC, COMMUNITY, PADDLING**

SPONSORED BY

IMMERSION RESEARCH | HIGHWATER HOBBIES | FALLS OUTDOOR COMPANY
3 RIVERS OUTDOOR CO. | PUBLIC LANDS | BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

Thanks to our Sponsors!

[Breakneck Campground](#)

[Immersion Research](#)

[Falls Outdoor Company](#)

[Burning River Adventures](#)

[Highwater Hobbies](#)

[Public Lands](#)

Keel-hauler Slip Fest-More Information April 14-April 16th

The Festival: APRIL 14-16, 2023, AT BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

Join us for a weekend full of paddling, campfires, community, gear swaps, camping, music, outdoor gear vendors, and kayak racing!

Merchandise and food reservations to come.

Accommodations: Breakneck Campground breakneckcampground.com/
1757 Cheeseman Rd, Portersville, PA 16051

The Race: April 15: 1 - 4 p.m. McConnells Mill State Park

Hosted by: The Keel-haulers Canoe Club

Race Director: Matt Pascal

Festival Director: Brian Smart

Safety Director: Seth Anderson

The race course will be from Eckert Bridge to Harris Bridge, This section is 3.3 miles long and is rated Class II by American Whitewater. [American Whitewater Section Description>](#)

Shuttle service will be provided to the start and from the finish line.

Awards ceremony to follow at Betsy's Barn at Breakneck Campground at 7 p.m.

Class	Defintions	Examples
A	Closed boats 14 ft or longer	Wildwater, Phoenix Match/Appalachain/Isere, Speeder, most Sea Kayaks
B	Closed Composite Boats under 14 ft + Wavehopper	Slalom Boats, Wavehopper, other Phoenix, shorter composite Sea Kayaks
C	Closed Plastic Boats under 14 ft (not Wavehopper)	Mirage, Beluga, shorter plastic Sea Kayaks, TaiFun
D	Closed Boats under 12' 6"	Modern Longboats (2R, Karma UL, Greenboat, Stinger), T-Slalom
E	Closed Boats under 11' 6"	T-Canyon, 9r2, Gnarvana, most river-runners
F	Closed Boats under 9 ft	most Full- and Half-slices, most Creekboats (Mamba 8+, Zen, OG9r)
G	Closed Boats under 8 ft	Most Playboats, Mamba 7.6
TK	Tandem Kayak	Any length
OC1	Open Canoes, solo	Any length
OC2	Open Canoes, tandem	Any length
SUP	Stand up Paddleboards	Inflatable or rigid, any length
I1	Solo Inflatable Kayaks	Any length
I2	Rafts & Tandem Inflatable Kayaks	Any length

Register for the Race:

1. Fill out the [registration form here](#).
2. Sign the [waiver linked here](#).
3. Pay the race registration fee, below. Payment must be received to complete registration.  - Pay registration fees for the race here - \$35 per racer

All racers are required by PA DNCR Regulations to have a PA State Park Launch Permit. Permits can be purchased at the Moraine State Park Office.

Questions? Email us at clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com.

**Conservation News
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Supporting conservation is important to KHCC members. Unlike many types of boaters, we have a lot of primary contact in the waters where we paddle. We can provide this support in a number of ways. The first way is to pay dues to the club so we continue to have the funds to donate to worthy organizations. Additionally, individual memberships to local and national groups that advocate for healthy water not only add to their financial well-being, they allow these groups to have the strength in numbers that will help convince elected officials that people care about protecting and restoring our waters. Setting a good example by participating in conservation events like stream cleanups, streamside plantings, invasive plant removal and good boat hygiene (to prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals) not only helps keep our streams healthy, it also gives you a chance to talk about good conservation actions with friends and family. In my mind, the most important thing we can do is educate and inspire the next generation to love and care for streams as much or more than we do.

Why do I think that sharing our passion for conservation is important? I was fortunate to have great mentors that instilled a conservation ethic into my life at an early age and I've really enjoyed a lifetime of conservation work. I began my journey in high school because a science teacher suggested that I apply to the Youth Conservation Corps in the summer of 1977 and the Student Conservation Association in the spring of 1978. I worked in State Parks establishing and maintaining trails in the former and in the backcountry of Arches National Park doing restoration projects in the latter. In the 1990s, I assisted my son's scout troop with Cuyahoga River Day cleanups. During and after college in the 2000s I started working in environmental education roles, first as a Columbus Metroparks volunteer, then

as a seasonal State Park Naturalist Aide. While I was in SE Ohio, I volunteered doing bat and plant surveys and seed collection in Wayne National Forest and canoe tours in Lake Hope State Park. I began facilitating environmental education teacher workshops. I learned even more about stream cleanups and watershed management when I was the Duck Creek Watershed Coordinator at Washington Soil & Water Conservation District. After the watershed grant was over I headed back to the Akron area and became an Interpretive Ranger in the Cuyahoga Valley NP. I loved educating the public about our wonderful natural resources in the valley where I had grown up. During this same time, I still enjoyed volunteering in natural resource restoration monitoring and restoration projects. In CVNP, I planted native trees and wildflowers, removed invasive plants, monitored wetland wells and completed habitat evaluations in headwater streams. I also learned to appreciate the power of good river advocacy. As a member of the Friends of the Crooked River board I worked with previous KHCC conservation chairs, organized the Cuyahoga RiverDay celebration and recently have worked on the dam removal project that eliminated a deadly low head dam in Brecksville, Ohio. For the last 6 years, I've been the stormwater education program manager for the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District and I have had the chance to interact with so many people and introduce them to many of the same conservation activities that inspired my passion for conservation.

I've been fortunate to enjoy a lifetime of conservation work. Most of you have a different type of day job, but I hope you all take advantage of opportunities to participate in protecting and improving the waterways we love! And please continue to introduce the next generation to your love of the outdoors. They will inherit our beloved waters - let's try to leave them in a better shape than we found them.

**River Cleanup on the Youghiogheny River
April 22nd from 10am to 12pm**

Join us this Earth Day for a litter cleanup on the Youghiogheny River!

We will be meeting at Yough River Park in Connellsville at 10:00 am. There will be opportunities to participate both on land and on the river. Rafts, paddles, and life vests are available to borrow for the event, please email Eric@mtwatershed.com to reserve your raft! Shuttle service back to Yough River Park will be provided.

****If you have a truck with hauling capacity to pull a trailer and wouldn't mind helping us with shuttle and/or transporting rafts from the MWA office to Connellsville, please reach out to Eric.**** Eric@mtwatershed.com

Activities for youth are being planned – stay tuned! This is a family friendly event. However, youth involvement on the river requires adult participation as well.

Please RSVP on this web page! [Yough River Cleanup \(Connellsville\) - Mountain Watershed Association \(mtwatershed.com\)](https://www.mtwatershed.com/yough-river-cleanup-connellsville)

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of February 23, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,320.69

CD 1077 \$2,320.61

CD'S (2) \$4,641.30

Checking \$12,867.35

Total \$16,508.65

Keel-hauler 2023 Conservation Efforts

Because rivers can't protect themselves from human interference, non-profit organizations including [American Whitewater](#) fight for them by petitioning governments and organizing clean-ups. Our club donates money to organizations that we feel are worthy of our support. Club members are also asked to consider contributing directly to these groups by clicking on the organization's name below.

Our total contributions for fiscal year 2023: **\$5150.00**

[American Rivers](#) \$300.

[American Whitewater](#) \$1500. All Keel-hauler Members can **get \$10 off** their yearly AW membership dues. AW's website and river stewardship projects are funded through memberships. Please join or renew today by clicking AW's link.

[Friends of the Cheat](#) \$1000.

[Friends of the Crooked River](#) \$100.

[Friends of the New River Gorge](#) \$100.

[Grand Canyon Private Boaters](#) \$150.

[Mountain Watershed Assoc.](#) - Yough Defense Fund \$300.

[Nature Conservancy](#) \$100.

[Stonycreek](#) -Special Donation to sponsor a dam release this year \$600.

[Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund](#) \$500 set aside.

[River Network](#) \$100.

[WV Rivers Coalition](#) \$300.

Current Roll Sessions
Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers
Canoe Club (keelhauler.com)

Check out the website for current locations and times or just click on the link above!

Keel-hauler Trip Planning
Calendar of Events on our website

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#)

Friday, March 17

4:45pm St. Paddy Paddle and Pub in Peninsula

Saturday, March 25

Slippery Rock Creek

Sunday, March 26

Slippery Rock Creek

Saturday, April 1

KH Wilderness First Aid 11:00pm Registration Link Below

[Top Yough Race](#)

Sunday, April 2

KH Wilderness First Aid Continued Registration Link Below

Saturday, April 15

Slip Fest

Sunday, April 16

Slip Fest

Saturday, April 22

[Potomac Earth Day River Cleanup](#)

Saturday, April 29

2:30pm [Cuyahoga Falls Fest](#)

First Aid Course Signup

[Kayaking Wilderness First Aid — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](http://keelhauler.com)

Swiftwater Rescue Courses 2023

Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O June 9th - 11th [Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O Dreams 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](http://keelhauler.com) and Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy June 23rd - 25th [Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](http://keelhauler.com). You must be a Keel-hauler member for one year to qualify for H2O.

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, temporarily send to: Keel-hauler Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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.com.

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, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **April 2023 issue of the newsletter is **3/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubagh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

March 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

APRIL, 2023



**Next Keel-hauler meeting:
To Be Announced...**

**Keel-hauler Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023
From Michael Duvall**

MEETING MINUTES 2-28-2023

Café Rewind 1763 Goodyear Blvd Akron

Called to Order 6:15 by President, Brian Smart

Brian brought topics for discussion

Summer roll practice planned again this year at Indigo lake and Munroe Falls.

There is a question of location on near west side location, TBD

Swift water rescue H2O is now full, Charlie Duffy class has openings.

Wilderness First Aid Class will be held at Kendell Ledges.

Cuyahoga National Park it was reported that Ryan Ainger said park is not actively enforcement for registration of stickers, but it is recommended for lost boats and missing person searches. Also "Lake Erie Access" books were at the meeting for members.

River clean ups Jackie Gosselin Zevenbergen said American Rivers has clean ups so everyone should think about having one on their favorite river.

New Business

Brian brought up the "Onion Bag Project" that places a garbage bag dispenser station for picking up trash on the river. The cost is \$35 for installation of dispenser and \$50 for stocking bags. Four locations were proposed three on Cuyahoga sections that the club paddles, and one on the Mohican that would be dedicated in memory of Bill Conrad founding member of the Keel-hauler club.

Voted and passed to spend \$340

Announcements and Events

Rachel Farber has been added to website design and produced a great Slip Fest Banner.

Slip Fest April 14-16. Memorial Swap Fest, Race, Music

Cheat Fest May 5-6-7

Stony Fest May 20-22. We have pavilion 5. Matt Fredmonsky is liaison.

Meeting adjourned 7:30

Slip Race 2023
By Matt Pascal
Slip Fest 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club
(keelhauler.com)

Registration for the Slippery Rock Creek Race is open and spots are filling. Race volunteers are preparing for the event. Safety teams have been assembled and are scoping out their positions. The festival event line-up is growing. All we need now is good weather and good flow, because race day is fast approaching! The race is first-come, first-served with a capacity of 117 racers, so don't wait to sign up. If the race isn't full by the time the festival starts on April 14, on-site registration will be an option.

Many of those who have signed up have been out there training. Flatwater intervals plus skills sessions will contribute to a fast time. To the best of my knowledge nobody's broken the 20-minute E2H barrier, but some in racing boats have come close! If you aren't sure what to paddle in the race, look around for the longest boat you can handle, be sure you can roll and maneuver in it, and take it down to the slip for race training!

As you think about race conditions, here is some information to help: Ideal conditions would be between 400 and 1000 cfs, and USGS Wurtemberg Data (1991 - 2022) shows that the Slip is in that range 56% of the time between April 1 and April 30. However, the slip is above 200 cfs 99.97% of the time in April and while there is sufficient water to race at this level, rocks will be nearly impossible to miss in some of the lines (so racing a plastic boat would be smart). At about 400 cfs the lines become rock-free if you know where to go. Intermediate boaters will probably find the course feeling "pushy" above 1000 cfs so a reliable roll will be essential. Expert boaters should be fine at any level above that.

Slippery Rock Creek collects wood in high water, so course monitors are constantly at work. The worst strainers have been pulled out already, and the course will be checked on Friday the 14th as well as the morning of the race. As long as the course is deemed safe by the team of festival, safety, and race directors, the race will go on!

If you're thinking about racing but aren't sure, signing up is risk-free. If you change your mind at any point before the 2 pm start of the race on April 15, your registration will be deferred to the 2024 event and you will be invited to spectate or even help out as a timing or safety volunteer. Then, as soon as the race is over you can start thinking about racing next year!

APRIL 14-16, 2023
AT BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

HOSTED BY THE KEEL-HAULERS CANOE CLUB



SLIP FEST
2023

**GEAR VENDORS, CAMPING, GEAR SWAP,
KAYAK RACE, MUSIC, COMMUNITY, PADDLING**

SPONSORED BY

IMMERSION RESEARCH | HIGHWATER HOBBIES | FALLS OUTDOOR COMPANY
3 RIVERS OUTDOOR CO. | PUBLIC LANDS | BREAKNECK CAMPGROUND

Thanks to our Sponsors!

[Breakneck Campground](#)

[Immersion Research](#)

[Falls Outdoor Company](#)

[Burning River Adventures](#)

[Highwater Hobbies](#)

[Public Lands](#)

**Cuyahoga Falls Fest
April 29, 2023**

The Club will have a booth at the event. For more information click on this link:
[Home \(cfallsfest.com\)](http://cfallsfest.com)

Roll Sessions
Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers
Canoe Club (keelhauler.com)

There are still a few roll sessions left in Akron, OH, Lebanon, OH, and Edinboro, PA. Check out the information on the link above.

**River Cleanup on the Youghiogheny River
April 22nd from 10am to 12pm**

Join us this Earth Day for a litter cleanup on the Youghiogheny River!

We will be meeting at Yough River Park in Connellsville at 10:00 am. There will be opportunities to participate both on land and on the river. Rafts, paddles, and life vests are available to borrow for the event, please email Eric@mtwatershed.com to reserve your raft! Shuttle service back to Yough River Park will be provided.

If you have a truck with hauling capacity to pull a trailer and wouldn't mind helping us with shuttle and/or transporting rafts from the MWA office to Connellsville, please reach out to Eric.
Eric@mtwatershed.com

Activities for youth are being planned – stay tuned! This is a family friendly event. However, youth involvement on the river requires adult participation as well.

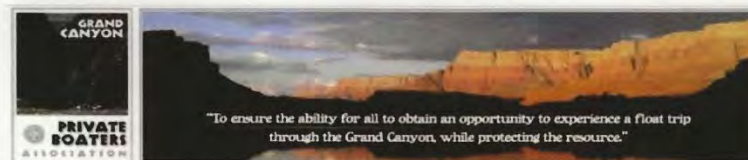
Please RSVP on this web page! [Yough River Cleanup \(Connellsville\) - Mountain Watershed Association \(mtwatershed.com\)](http://YoughRiverCleanup(Connellsville)-MountainWatershedAssociation(mtwatershed.com))

Friends of the Crooked River and Recommendations for Akron Consent Decree From Jacki Zevenbergen

Friends of the Crooked River have asked us to support the 3rd amendment to the consent decree supporting the city of Akron to oppose the EPA mandate. There is a lot of information attached if you want to dig into it but based on my experience with Akron Waterways Renewed and my understanding of the lack of benefit of demanding excessive capacity, I agree that this is a good move for both the residents of the city and the environment. Akron has worked very hard over the last decade to resolve their combined sewer overflow pollution and this amendment would address remaining issues in a practical manner. Failure to amend the current decree might also be problematic for the Gorge Dam removal. Here is some more information:

[Microsoft Word - Talking Points Amend 3 20230306.docx \(akronwaterwaysrenewed.com\)](#)

The Keel-hauler's have sent in a recommendation letter written by Jacki Zevenbergen supporting the amendment.



March 20, 2023

Kelly Miller, Treasurer
Keel-haulers Canoe Club
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134

Dear Kelly:

The Grand Canyon Private Boaters' Association is much appreciative of the Club's donation in support of our efforts. Please convey our appreciation to all your members.

Thank you,

John Vrymoed, President
Grand Canyon Private Boaters' Association

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of March 28, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,320.86

CD 1077 \$2,320.79

CD'S (2) \$4,641.65

Checking \$8,664.24

Total \$13,305.89

**Keel-hauler Trip Planning
Calendar of Events on our website**

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Saturday, April 1

KH Wilderness First Aid
11:00am **Top Yough Race**

Sunday, April 2

KH Wilderness First Aid

Saturday, April 15 - 16

Slip Fest

Saturday, April 22

Potomac Earth Day River Cleanup

Saturday, April 29

2:30pm **Cuyahoga Falls Fest**

Friday, May 5-7

Cheat Fest

Thursday, May 11

Potomac Chute Out #1

Saturday, May 13

12:00pm Memorial Float for Bill Conrad

Friday, May 19-21

Stony Fest

First Aid Course Signup

[Kayaking Wilderness First Aid — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com/kayaking-wilderness-first-aid)

Swiftwater Rescue Courses 2023

Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O June 9th - 11th [Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O Dreams 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#) **FULL**

and Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy June 23rd - 25th [Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#). **SPOTS STILL OPEN**

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Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

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Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **May 2023 issue of the newsletter is **4/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubagh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

April 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news MAY, 2023



**Next Keel-hauler meeting:
To Be Announced...**

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park Update
From Ted Moore**

As those of you who follow the club on Facebook already know, Ryan Ainger, National Park Service Ranger and CVNP's River Programs Manager, has been keeping us informed about the upcoming pedestrian bridge construction project near the takeout of the Lock 29 to Boston run on the Cuyahoga River and improvements to the Lock 29 put-in. For the rest of our members, my posts about these since the last newsletter have been as follows:

Posted March 12th:

From Ryan at CVNP:

"Just wanted to alert you that the official closure has started for Boston, but they have not marked off the access or put signs up yet. The temporary take out is in place, unsigned, but cleared of obstructions and they added a few stone steps."

Ryan asked that we let him know if there are any problems using the temporary takeout or if any of us have suggestions for improvement. Please post those in the comments.

Posted March 2nd:

Received these photos today from Ryan Ainger, CVNP River Programs Manager, with the caption, "Lock 29 improvement".

Should be easier on the ankles and other sensitive body parts susceptible to damage while putting in.



Temporary Takeout



Improved Put in



Improved Put in (Different view)

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of April 30, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,321.06
<u>CD 1077</u>	<u>\$2,320.98</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,642.04

<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$6,554.86</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$11,196.90</u>

Cheatfest
May 5th-6th, 2023
<https://cheatfest.org>



The annual Cheat River Festival is a celebration of the rebirth of the Cheat River watershed. Cheat Fest is Friends of the Cheat's annual fundraiser which helps us advance our watershed projects and supports the organization's administrative costs. Rain or shine, Cheat Fest is always a good time! From 5:30pm 'till 10:00pm on Friday, May 5th, and 11:30am 'till 11:30pm on Saturday, May 6th, the festival grounds in Albright, West Virginia will once again transform into a haven for boaters, music lovers, and families. Bands from all over Appalachia will entertain crowds with live music, while Fest goers browse the Art Market, learn about other non-profit organizations that share the FOC vision, buy from a variety of food and merchandise vendors, and above all, help support Friends of the Cheat. Please consider bringing a nonperishable food item for our Cheat Fest Food Drive!

Another reason to love Cheat Fest: kids under twelve are free! Kids of all ages can congregate at the ever-growing Kid's Tent from noon 'till 5:00pm on Saturday for a host of hands-on activities.

The Cheat River Festival is the primary fundraiser of the year for Friends of the Cheat. All profits from Cheat Fest are used to support our Education and Outreach efforts. Sadly, these programs are usually the first to experience funding shortfalls despite being one of the most important parts of FOC's work.

Cheat Fest Food Drive

Please help us support our local food pantries by contributing to our Cheat Fest Food Drive! All items can be dropped off at the Info Booth during the Fest.



Food for Preston
P.O. Box 1175
Kingwood, WV 26537
304-379-3519
coordinator@foodforpreston.org
foodforpreston.org

Director

Tammy Laney

President

Kim Liston

Vice President

Barb Thorn

Treasurer

Karen Bright

Assistant Treasurer

Kristy Ash

Secretary

Marsha Wolfe

Food Pantries

Community Action
Kingwood Apostolic
Maple Spring
North Preston
Raymond Wolfe
Salvation Army
Shepherd's Tent
South Preston
Starting Points
Terra Alta
Valley

Backpack Program

School Store Program

Food for Preston
Suggested Donation List

Nonperishable
Food Items

Baby Food
Baby Formula
Beans, Dried/Canned
Biscuit Mix
Cake Mix
Cereal
Cereal Bars
Corn Bread Mix
Crackers
Fruits, Canned
Granola Bars
Macaroni & Cheese
Milk, Canned/Boxed
Pasta
Peanut Butter
Potato Mix Boxes
Ramen
Rice
Salmon, Canned
Saltines
Soup
Spaghetti Sauce
Stuffing Mix
Tuna
Vegetables, Canned

Hygiene/Cleaning
Items

Bleach Wipes
Dental Floss
Deodorant
Dish Soap
Feminine Hygiene Products
Household Cleaners
Lotion
Mouthwash
Paper Towels
Sanitizer
Shampoo/Conditioner
Soap
Tissues
Toilet Paper
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Trash Bags

Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED
By Ted Moore

Imagine yourself on one of your favorite rivers or lakes with paddlers you've played with and trusted for years. Maybe halfway down Cheat Canyon, somewhere along Section 4 of the Chattooga, or around a fire at one of the midriver campsites in the Allegheny Islands Wilderness. Someplace remote, wild, beautiful - and completely out of cell range.

Perfect.

Until one of your companions starts to have trouble breathing. Or sets up for a roll only to have helmeted head meet submerged rock. Or braces, then feels the dreaded pop of a dislocated shoulder.

Calling on your Red Cross First Aid/CPR training and the basic medical kit you've stowed in your boat, you jump in and get the situation under control. Then you remember the next step you're supposed to take: call 911.

Only....

With this sort of scenario in mind, the Keel-haulers formed a Training Committee earlier this year that included:

- * Mark Spang (ACA LVL1/LGT/FAT/CPR/AED)
- * Josh Scott (ACA LVL3 CKI/WFR/CPR)
- * Moneen McBride (ACA LVL 1/CPR/AED)
- * Seth Anderson (SWR/FAT/CPR/AED)
- * Brian Smart (SWR/WFA/CPR/AED)

One of this Committee's first projects was to organize a customized Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED course for KHCC members. Over the weekend of April 1st and 2nd, 9 Keel-Haulers spent 2 days with Charlie Duffy. Charlie literally wrote the book on Wilderness First Aid. He also designed and instructs, all over the US, the only Wilderness First Aid course built around the needs of sick or injured paddlers in situations where help may be hours, or even days, away.

Charlie's been on the river since the late 1970s and is the Chapter Safety Coordinator of Team River Runner, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit. TRR's mission is to help active-duty service members, veterans, and their families "find health, healing, community purpose, and new challenges through adventure and adaptive paddle sports!"

Charlie brought decades of kayaking, wilderness emergency response, and easy-going instructional experience to 2 intensive days of scenario-based training and practice at Ledges Shelter in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In the end, all who participated came away with the knowledge and confidence to take care of challenging situations when they happen in places where you can be a world away.

The Committee will continue to develop and deliver training experiences that will help us all stay as safe as possible on the water, no matter where we happen to be or what kind of paddling we enjoy. Keep an eye on this newsletter, the KHCC website, and social media for the next opportunity to up your game.

Slippery Rock Spring Opener
March 25th and 26th
By Jacki Zevenbergen

Levels were high so we moved to the Connoquenessing on Saturday. It was my PFD of the Connie. It was a great run with a small group that included myself, Michael Gaines, Cody Kowalski and Michael Duvall. Thanks to the Wehmans, we were able to run from above the regular put in all the way to the Rock Point Boat Club take out. As usual, I managed to get myself stuck but Michael Gaines kindly shoved me out of the surf wave so I could continue on my way. We made a short detour up the confluence to check out the Slip. I was dreading the Rooster Tail rapid but it was actually washed out so I was surprised when we got to the takeout and I learned that I had already gone through it. After a meal at the BBQ place, the guys threw their wet gear back on and joined Paul Isaac and Father Gabriel for a quick trip down Hickory Run.

Day two got a little spicier and new paddlers joined the crew. The Slip had dropped but it was still over 2600 cfs. We decided to just paddle the lower section. Our crew still included myself and Michael Gaines and we added 5 more people - Mike Gillam, Rachel Faber, Xavier Rivera, Tyler Hoover and Paul Isaac. There were nice fluffy wave trains and the trip was pretty quick. We ended the weekend with dinner at Brown's Country Kitchen.

It was a great weekend to kick off the spring paddling season!

SlipFest Results April 15th and 16th



Thank you! A huge shout out to all of our volunteers and sponsors that made Slip Fest 2023 a success. See you all next year! Follow our Facebook [page here](#) for updates!

RACE RESULTS AND TIMES

BOAT	Name	Class	Time	BOAT	Name	Class	Time
111	Trevor Wagner	A	0:23:58				
114	Matt Pascal	A	0:25:14				
115	Alex Vesey	A	0:25:23				
116	Martin Wick	A	0:25:40				
113	Brian Joly	A	0:27:34				
112	Greg Akins	B	0:27:30				
122	Edward McGuinness	B	0:28:58				
121	Barry Adams	B	0:31:28				
129	Ryan Kanick	C	0:30:12				
148	Elijah Evans	D	0:29:52	141	Erin Barket	D	0:29:54
143	David Harris	D	0:30:22	142	Jen Damon	D	0:30:51
149	Cliff Wire	D	0:32:03	144	Annaleis Layton	D	0:33:45
147	Mike Duvall	D	0:33:19				
145	John Wood	E	0:30:28	156	Caitlyn Yanko	E	0:34:59
158	Eric Daw	E	0:31:00				
151	Bruce Berman	E	0:31:48				
152	Paul Isaac	E	0:32:23				
157	Jeff Wilson	E	0:33:15				
153	Jeremy Fridley	E	0:34:39				
154	Dan McMullan	E	0:36:49				
167	Jake Bayus	F	0:32:18	168	Rachel Faber	F	0:36:28
159	Robert Hoffmeister	F	0:32:31				
155	Eric Saul	F	0:32:39				
163	Fred Peskorski	F	0:33:21				
165	Peter Domin	F	0:34:09				
162	Dave Powell	F	0:34:19				
166	Brad Reiner	F	0:34:52				
161	John Zevenberger	F	0:35:29				
169	CJ Schmitt	F	0:35:34				
164	Xavier Rivera	F	0:36:41				
182	Michael Gaines	G	0:35:28				
186	Alex Stephens	G	0:36:59				
184	Steve Kinter	G	0:37:23				
183	Alex McKown	G	0:38:31				
187	Anthony Lazarro	G	0:39:28				
185	Gustavo Chacon	G	0:39:30				
181	Tim Hughes	G	0:39:51				
110	Damon Hughey	I1	0:40:12				
172	Lindbauer & Ion	I2	0:44:58				
171	Danny & Wendy Williams	OC2	0:32:38				
130	Ian Smith	SUP	0:30:08	120	Jill Martin	SUP	0:41:01
140	Jared Wickerman	SUP	0:39:37				
150	Mark Palladino	SUP	0:45:18				

Thanks to our Sponsors!

[Breakneck Campground](#)

[Immersion Research](#)

[Falls Outdoor Company](#)

[Burning River Adventures](#)

[Highwater Hobbies](#)

[Public Lands](#)

**Yough River Cleanup (West Newton)
May 20th from 10am-2pm**



We will be meeting at Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon at 10:00 am. The float cleanup will likely wrap-up around 2pm. We will float down to West Newton and end near the Giant Eagle. Rafts, paddles, and life vests are available to borrow for the event, please email Eric@mtwatershed.com to reserve your raft! Shuttle service back to Cedar Creek Park will be provided. Please arrive early if you'd like to arrange shuttle.

****If you have a truck with hauling capacity to pull a trailer and wouldn't mind helping us with shuttle and/or transporting rafts from the MWA office to Connellsville, please reach out to Eric.****

This is a family friendly event. However, youth involvement on the river requires adult participation as well.

After the cleanup, join us at Bloom Brew for a drink after a hard day of work.

Please RSVP at the bottom of this webpage/link!

[Yough River Cleanup \(West Newton\) - Mountain Watershed Association \(mtwatershed.com\)](#)

Stonycreek Rendezvous May 19th-21st, 2023

The Keel-hauler's will have pavilion #5 this year. More information can be found about the event at:

[2023 Rendezvous | Benscreek Canoe Club](#)



Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

Last month, I sent a letter of support of the third amendment to the Akron consent decree on behalf of KHCC. We are supporting a change that will allow the city to eliminate sewage overflows into the Cuyahoga River at a much lower cost to their ratepayers while reducing the conflicts with the Gorge Dam removal that the current consent decree creates. If anyone has questions about the impact of this change please contact me.

An update to the plans for the Gorge Dam removal was given by Bill Zawiski, from Ohio EPA, at the Friends of the Crooked River Rat Revelry. Several KHCC members attended. Per Bill, "the local partners have assembled a portfolio believed adequate to cover 35% of the project cost. That is a milestone to be proud of.

At this time a document called the Project Agreement is being crafted and reviewed. This document will define responsibilities and commitments and, once signed by US EPA and Ohio EPA, will be the "official" ready to go." The anticipated timeline for the removal project is 2023-2026.

Please let me know if there is an interest in having Bill, Elaine Marsh or a representative from the City of Akron speak at a KHCC meeting. Decades of work have gone into restoring the Cuyahoga River. It's always interesting to talk to the people who have contributed so much time and energy to free the river.

Finally, please do your part to keep your local rivers clean. Check out the websites and social media of the watershed groups that we support (this information is available on the KHCC website). Many watershed groups already have their scheduled spring cleanups listed. Also, many hosts list their cleanups on American Rivers. Go to <https://www.americanrivers.org/make-an-impact/national-river-cleanup/> to find a river cleanup near you or to learn more about hosting a cleanup on your favorite river.



Keel-hauler Trip Planning **Calendar of Events on our website**

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://keelhauler.com)

Tuesday, May 2

3:00pm JK Fun Tour: Falls Outdoor Company!

Friday, May 5

Cheat Fest

Saturday, May 6

Cheat Fest

Sunday, May 7

Cheat Fest

Thursday, May 11

Potomac Chute Out #1

Saturday, May 13

Dry Fork of the Cheat with a North Branch fall back

12:00pm Memorial Float for Bill Conrad

Sunday, May 14

Dry Fork of the Cheat with a North Branch fall back

Friday, May 19-21st

Stoney Fest

Friday, June 9

Common Sense Rescue

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Saturday, June 10

Common Sense Rescue

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Sunday, June 11

Common Sense Rescue

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Swiftwater Rescue Courses 2023

Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O June 9th - 11th [Common Sense Swift Water Rescue with H2O Dreams 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://keelhauler.com)

and Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy June 23rd - 25th
[Mark Hanna & Carl Schneider Memorial ACA Swift Water Rescue with Charles Duffy 2023 — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://keelhauler.com).

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, temporarily send to: Keel-hauler Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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.com.

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, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!

The deadline for the June 2023 issue of the newsletter is 5/23/2023. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews

May 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

JUNE, 2023



**Next Keel-hauler meeting:
To Be Announced...**

Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2023 From Kelly Miller

CD 0402	\$2,321.25
<u>CD 1077</u>	<u>\$2,321.18</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,642.43

<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$9,578.01</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$14,220.44</u>

Outdoor Weekly Roll Practice 2023

Every Tuesday(5-7) and every other Sunday(12-3) from May 16th and ending Sept 5th (weather permitting) . Alternating locations between Indigo Lake and Munroe Falls Lake. The Group will meet for informal roll practice. Kayak Soccer on Sundays. Everyone is welcome! If you need gear, please reach out to the club email.

Price: FREE

Locations:

Munroe Falls Lake ([Munroe Lake Google Map](#)) GPS Coordinates 41.134579, -81.420169

Indigo Lake ([Indigo Lake Google Map](#)) GPS Coordinates 41°11'38.5"N 81°34'41.6"W

Dates:

1. Tuesday - 5/16/23 5pm to 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
2. Tuesday - 5/23/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
3. Tuesday - 5/30/23 5pm to 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
4. Tuesday - 6/6/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
5. Tuesday - 6/13/23 5pm to 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
6. Tuesday - 6/20/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
7. Tuesday - 6/27/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
8. Sunday - 7/2/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
9. Tuesday - 7/11/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
10. Sunday - 7/16/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
11. Tuesday - 7/18/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
12. Tuesday - 7/25/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
13. Sunday - 7/30/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake

The Club reserved Maple Beach Shelter to have a club meeting

1. Tuesday 8/1/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
2. Tuesday - 8/8/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
3. Sunday - 8/13/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
4. Tuesday - 8/15/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
5. Tuesday - 8/22/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
6. Sunday - 8/27/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
7. Tuesday - 8/29/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
8. Tuesday - 9/5/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake

For more information, please contact clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

Current Upper Yough Release Schedule

2023 Upper Yough Release Schedule

May 10 AM to 1 PM

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28*	29*	30	31			



Scheduled Release



Possible if not lower than
0.1' below high rule curve

June 11 AM to 2 PM

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Scheduled Release



Race - 10 AM to 4 PM

July 11 AM to 2 PM

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The Blue Releases were added to make up for last year's dam repairs, but only if the lake level is no more than 0.1' below the high rule curve.

Support Slippery Rock Creek

Creekfest

**Rock Falls Park
Slippery Rock, PA**

**Saturday, June 17, 2023
10 A.M. – 8 P.M.**

**Free
Food**

Games

**Live
Music!**

Morning Paddle
Crestview Rd to Stoughton Rd
Departs 10 A.M.

Vendors

**Band: Uptown Classic Hits
5 – 8 P.M.**

**Free Burgers & Hot Dogs
4 - 8 P.M.**

T-Shirts for Sale

Donations accepted

SAY NO TO HEI-WAY ASPHALT

**Stop the pollution from the planned industrial development of
our beloved Slippery Rock Creek. We need your help!**

Donations: GoFundMe: bit.ly/SSRC20k or Venmo: @SaveSlipperyrockCreek

For more information visit: www.saveslipperyrockcreek.weebly.com

This is a reprint of a story from our newsletter in 1991

**The Allure of the Flood
The Tale of the Slug
By Art Vaughn**

It has a lot to do with the color and smell of the water: dark, thick, brown and earthy. The mud-saturated water causes rock pillows to look more like waves than they do rocks. You've got to look for Nealy's FLW (funny little wave) on top to tell the difference. The sawmill-grade logs fluming down the river (some with the root balls still attached) give you a sense of the power involved. The holes say "I want you". This stuff is adrenaline pure and simple.

This is a story of six river trips, all but one of which was in flood. The one trip not in flood, strangely enough, is the one that gives the unifying thread to all the others – the tale of the Slug!

The Slug is a river beast. He's out to get you. Usually, he lies dormant at the bottom of the river, but given enough rain, he comes up with an attitude to destroy the world. When you've been had by the Slug, you've been slimed. In November of 1988, (long before I was ready for this sort of thing, if I ever will be) Dave Becker, Jim Maruna and I paddled a mellow Saturday Cheat trip at 2.5 ft. It had rained hard overnight as we camped at the Iron Furnace. In the morning, the 3.5 ft. gauge made me a little apprehensive before we went to breakfast (maybe Dave hadn't discovered Raman noodles in 1988). When we came back from breakfast and saw 4 ft. on the gauge, it was Dave who said "Well, if we just paddle hard enough we can stay ahead of it." We were about to meet the Slug.

It was a raw and drizzly day. The visibility in the fog was nil. Sound traveled well though and we constantly heard a roar ahead. The only places we recognized on the river were Big Nasty, High Falls and Coliseum.

We almost missed the Jenkinsburg bridge because it was nearly overhead before we could see it in the fog.

Big Nasty we walked. No need to chance that one. High Falls we scouted and found a route on far river right to miss the hole that would hold a tanker truck. Trouble was, we got lost on the river and we each had our own up close personal experience with that hole. Coliseum we did on river left while the falls on the right looked like a Gauley tube. The tip of the pyramid rock (prior to its tip over) was nearly under water. The big rock between Coliseum and Pete Morgan's was just starting to make a pour over hole. We had lunch there and watched the logs zoom by. Occasionally a swirl in the fog would let us see the Coliseum falls in splendor.

Throughout this trip I thought we had maybe a 50/50 chance of survival. This was a primal experience. I was ready to kiss the ground at the takeout when a storm of tornadic proportions blew in. Trees were crashing down all around us. We formed a defensive posture looking around us, on all sides and up, to see where the next limb would crash. We learned then that the power of the Slug is not limited to the river. When we returned to Albright the gauge was reading 8.5 ft.

Our next meeting with the Slug was on Slippery Rock Creek. This trip was just his way of getting us to come back for more, because this one was fun! Ron Montgomery and I with a few others came up with some outlandish stories for each of our bosses that day (mine was " "something's come up, I've gotta go") and headed over to Slippery Rock one Thursday afternoon in June of 1989. None of us pushed too hard to run the upper section so we put in about halfway down the wooden steps at Eckert's bridge. What a hoot and a holler. Familiarity had a lot to do with the fun. We could judge our location well enough from the trees in the eddies without relying on river features. Stupid Rock was just one HUGE hole. Stop and surf and you were playing chicken with the logs. We had great fun that day. The gauge was "missing" (it was under water) but the sluiceway barely had a drop to it.

The very next weekend in June of 1989 we had a neatly scheduled Middle Fork and Tygart trip. Looking at raging brown water while camped at Audra, we went out for the Dry Fork for Saturday's trip. We had some really good high-water fun that day but the Slug wasn't to be seen until the latter half of Sunday's trip.

When we paddled out of the Middle Fork to the Tygart that Sunday, we saw all the water ever meant for a riverbed. There was so much water in that river that Jane Allinson stopped talking (maybe she had the same cotton mouth that I did). Thury O'Connor was the first to alert me to the situation ahead. When I asked about the color of the water, he said, "The same color your shorts will be when you see it". We paddled hard that day with an effort well remembered.

Our next meeting with the Slug's big earthy flood water was March 23, 1991. Fred Lemke and I met Dave Becker and Greg Lewis at the Iron Furnace for what seemed like a passing moment on our way to different rivers. Greg was looking for "gradient" while Fred and I were looking to bag a new river. What Fred had in mind was the Bemis-to-Bowden section of the Shaver's Fork. The heavy rain overnight made the Shaver's Fork seem like the only option for all of us. When we got there it was bank full. It looked like fun. Even more so was the last stretch of the upper Shaver's Fork that we could see from the Bemis bridge. We walked a half a mile up private land to get to it. Our first hint that the Slug was after us was when Fred's paddle went shooting past us in the raging brown water before he had even set out onto the river. We got the paddle, and Fred did the 100-yard dash down and back for it. When he did get on the river, he was breathless, and in short order he flipped and swam.

Fred took a long and hard swim. As he staggered down the fence row to his gear, his face looked vacant and concerned. When he got to his boat he sat down and promptly collapsed. We figured we had a major CPR situation on our hands. He came out of it in due time, but in no shape to continue on down river. Fred got bit by the Slug.

When Dave, Greg and I got back to our boats an hour later, the river had risen noticeably. The water was lapping at our boats after we had pulled them high on shore. With little thought for the Slug, we headed on down river. We saw the Slug in short order. The river narrowed. The water continued to rise. The exploding haystack waves reached from bank to bank. The logs with exposed and grabbing root balls came rolling by. There were no eddies. All you saw going around the next bend were more holes, and strainers stretching out from the banks. Grand Canyon size exploding waves are fun, but they don't belong on a creek.

We caught an occasionally tiny, surging eddy on river right. The way out, the railroad, was on river left. My only goal in life was to make it across that exploding chasm to river left. We scouted that right bank in a major way. Working our boats through the unsure footing of the steep, laurel-thicketed bank was a major effort, but we fought and thrashed our way through the stuff at each bend to see the route ahead. Finally, we saw a way to ferry to river left. That was it for me, "I'm out of here! Goodbye Slug! I'll see you another day!" Dave and Greg made the last seven miles in half an hour. The Bowden gauge was reading seven feet.

No story of flood paddling would be complete without an account of this spring's Good Friday flood trip on the French Broad. The Mother of all Slugs rose up from the river to greet us.

John Kobak's southern rivers trip this year started with a good 24-hour continuous drenching rain. As we camped at the Nolichucky, Bob McGinley was probably the first to notice the Slug's approach when his tent flooded at 3am. We watched the Nolichucky pass through 4 and 5 foot stages that morning before we made our dash through the rising water over the campground bridge. Our only option was the French Broad.



Well, it may be a little on the high side, but I'm sure it hasn't crested yet! Photo by Cathy Tomallo – French Broad, Southern Rivers Trip, March 1991

The Big Laurel was pumping big time flood water as we made our way to Hot Springs in the rain. The river was "up" and NOC advised us to park on high ground when we set our shuttle. Looking upstream at Surprise Ledge we saw a monster river-wide hydraulic. With no reliable way to judge the flow between 0,000 and 20,000 CFS, Thury O'Connor estimated it to be about 80 GGH (that's 80 Gazillion Garden Hoses). The Slug demands his own measure of flow. Thury has the conversion factors.

When we put on at Walnut, Natasha Galvez was having a hard time reconciling the situation at hand with Jane's description of gentle, warm weather paddling on southern waters. Two miles into the trip Natasha had used up all of her imagination (and all of her braces). We found a ride out for her from Sandy Bottom with three local boys and Natasha thought her excitement was over for the day.

After the locals told us that two dams were about to burst upstream, we started seeing more logs, timbers, railroad ties, 55-gallon drums, toys, tires, whole trees, and house parts floating by. It was really difficult to get a good clean paddle stroke into the flotsam. Jane peeled out weepy eyed to rescue a deer we saw swimming for its life. Chuck peeled out after her to make sure that they were

both safe. An NOC guided raft trip was lining rafts up-river through the trees. After multiple big-raft flips they had enough of it and walked out.

The holes were awesome, even more so when they were surfing a log. Syd Reams had a close call with one hole/log combo. John Fralick thought that one of those "Life-Saver Radial" tires might be a good thing to grab onto and Ron Tommalo kept trading in his basketball for a better one. We went left to avoid Kayak Ledge three times. After we had done the "sneak" at Frank Bell's, I only missed the railroad trestle by a blade length with my uplifted paddle. After a lot of anticipation, Surprise Ledge was totally washed out, we never saw it.

We beached in the volleyball court. Our shuttle drivers had moved the cars three times to higher ground and still we dressed with our feet in the water. We drove out just as the water was reaching the road. We fought the Slug on his own turf and we won! Now all we had to do was find Natasha. (Ask Natasha about her "Deliverance" story).

I was just beginning to believe that this Slug was a figment of my imagination when-BAM-I know he's real. This slime-ball animal is out to get any of us who ever venture onto rivers. The reason I know that the Slug is real is because we were told about him by some very authoritative paddlers from Colorado.

And so this is the story of the Slug. I related this story to William Nealy and he graciously supplied the accompanying cartoon for use in our newsletter.



One day in April 1989, John Kobak, the Poljaks, Jim Botamer, Thury, Paul Wild, Kathleen Hillis and I were suiting up at the Albright bridge for a day on the Cheat. The day was mild but it had rained hard the night before. The gauge was reading 4.3 ft. As we were working with our gear, a car with Colorado license plates pulled up to the bridge and a bunch of wild-eyed, scraggly-haired "Nealy" characters poured out to look at the gauge. With wild and exaggerated hand gestures, they said, "There's a big Slug coming down the river!" We all looked upstream. "A what?" we said. "A Big Slug. A big Slug of water is coming down the river". Well, we all spent the day looking over our shoulders but the Slug remained dormant that day.

That's not to say he isn't there. That Slug is out there waiting for us. All of us. He's always there, lurking, ready to bite. Look out for the Slug. He's real.

Keel-hauler Trip Planning
[Calendar of Events on our website](#)

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Saturday, June 3

TRPC Slip Clinic

Sunday, June 4

TRPC Slip Clinic

Friday, June 9

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

Common Sense Rescue

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Saturday, June 10

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

Common Sense Rescue

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Sunday, June 11

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

Common Sense Rescue

West Branch of the Susquehanna

Thursday, June 15

7:30pm

Potomac Chute Out #2

Friday, June 16

Duffy SWRC

Saturday, June 17

Duffy SWRC

Sunday, June 18

Duffy SWRC

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, temporarily send to: Keel-hauler Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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Keel-Hauler Kanews

June 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news JULY, 2023



2 New Keel-hauler Events:

Kayak Soccer & Lunch At Munroe Falls Lake!

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023 AT 12 PM – 4 PM

The Club reserved Maple Beach Shelter to have a get together. We will not be having a meeting but will have a potluck. Come Join us for Roll Practice and Kayak Soccer! We will set up the clubs floating nets and bust out the ball and have a game! This will be a pot-luck lunch with Burgers, Hotdogs, and drinks provided by the club! Bring a Side! <https://goo.gl/maps/A5inZB7mzjThckDT8>

Next Keel-hauler meeting:

This year again, the Keel-haulers will be having the club picnic and summer meeting at the Lower Yough from August 11-13th, the second weekend in August.
Come spend time with your friends camping, socializing, boating, and eating.

We will be camping at Benner's Meadow Run Campground at group campsite 507 and the cost is \$12/person/night. The reservation will be under Seth Anderson/Keel-haulers. You will pay upon arrival.

The club meeting and potluck will be held at the pavilion near the pond and our group camping at 6 pm Saturday night. EVERYONE please bring a dish to share.
The club will provide hotdogs and hamburgers.

There will be paddle trips on the Middle Yough at 9 am (organized by Brian Smart, Jennifer Hughes, and Ted Moore) and Lower Yough at 9 am (organized by Matt Fredmonsky, Mike Duvall, Mike Gillam, and Seth Anderson). More info about meeting locations and time will be posted on the Facebook event page.

If you have any questions, please contact Brianna Wiser on Facebook, text (814)644-1457, or by email briannawiser@gmail.com.

**Special KHCC Membership Prices Available July 1st
By John Kobak**

It is nearing the end of our 2023 membership year.

Tell your non-member friends & paddling buddies if they join now, they **Save 35%**. So instead of paying for a \$20 membership for 2023 they can also pay for 2024, Instead of a \$40 membership cost for 2023-24, they only pay \$26. They just fill out our [Registration Form](#), and their payment options will be displayed.

All existing members can start paying their 2024 dues now, no need to submit an application.

Pay your 2024 Dues or pay for 2024 and 2025 and save \$4.00 by using this link <https://www.keelhauler.com/ezpay24>

Over 150 Members have already paid dues for 2024, so please disregard if you are already paid for 2024

You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **3**, then you are paid for 2023. If it shows **34**, you are also paid for 2024. This file is password protected for members only; use the current 2023 password which is sent out in our monthly e-mail.

Remember all 2023 memberships will expire on Oct 1, 2023.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of June 22, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,321.45
<u>CD 1077</u>	<u>\$2,321.18</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,642.63

<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$8,975.27</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,617.90</u>

Outdoor Weekly Roll Practice 2023

Every Tuesday(5-7) and every other Sunday(12-3) from May 16th and ending Sept 5th (weather permitting) . Alternating locations between Indigo Lake and Munroe Falls Lake. The Group will meet for informal roll practice. Kayak Soccer on Sundays. Everyone is welcome! If you need gear, please reach out to the club email.

Price: FREE

Locations:

Munroe Falls Lake ([Munroe Lake Google Map](#))

GPS Coordinates 41.134579, -81.420169

Indigo Lake ([Indigo Lake Google Map](#))

GPS Coordinates 41°11'38.5"N 81°34'41.6"W

Dates:

1. Sunday - 7/2/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
2. Tuesday - 7/11/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
3. Sunday - 7/16/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
4. Tuesday - 7/18/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
5. Tuesday - 7/25/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
6. Sunday - 7/30/23 12pm - 4pm = Munroe Falls Lake
7. Tuesday 8/1/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
8. Tuesday - 8/8/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
9. Sunday - 8/13/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
10. Tuesday - 8/15/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
11. Tuesday - 8/22/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake

The Club reserved Maple Beach Shelter to have a get together.

- 12. Sunday – 8/27/23 12pm – 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
- 13. Tuesday – 8/29/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
- 14. Tuesday – 9 /5/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake

For more information, please contact clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

Slip Race Recap By Matt Pascal

This past April, forty-nine boats passed under Eckert Bridge at full throttle for the start of the Keel-Haulers Slippery Rock Creek Race. A brisk morning had turned into a warm and sunny spring day as the race, which was the focal point of this year's SlipFest, wound its way through remote Slippery Rock Creek canyon in PA's McConnell's Mill State Park. Racers took off in small groups timed 5 minutes apart; first the fastest long composite racers, followed by increasingly slower (by design) vessels. Spectators congregated at Eckert Bridge and along the Slippery Rock Gorge Trail. The level in the Slip that day - about 365 cfs - proved to be just enough for those who found the deeper channels, but too low for those less adept at the avoidance of rocks. Mostly in kayaks, but also canoes, both solo and tandem, a proper whitewater raft, and paddle boards, the racers sweated it out throughout the 3.3-mile, class II course to Harris Bridge.

The race organizers had been carefully watching conditions in Slippery Rock Creek as the April 15th race approached. Volunteers removed strainers ahead of time and created a plan to make sure every racer was safe at each rapid. Over 30 volunteers helped to facilitate the race by assisting with registration, timing, and safety. Racing on the lower slip, which paddlers typically descend leisurely by catching eddies, surfing, and socializing from their boats, proved to be a different experience for the racers. Rather than watching out for each other, racers worked to establish a competitive position in the field from the start, and as they say, "rubbin' is racin'." Instead of looking for interesting waves to surf, they sought out the fastest current between rocks and hydraulics. It is an exhausting way to paddle and, in a race, a capsize often means a swim only because an out-of-breath racers can't hold their breath for long. Fortunately a few racers pulled off rolls after capsizing and then . . . at S-turn and Penultimate rapids, a few found unavoidable rocks to be pushed against. Safety volunteers there encouraged them to "love the rock" and not a single racer swam.

US National Wildwater team member, Trevor Wagner, traveled from his home in Eastern PA to win the race in 23:58, followed by a total of 4 more racers in proper wildwater racing boats. Trevor went on to represent the USA at the World Championship races in Augsburg, Germany in June. SlipRace Class F (closed boats under 9 ft long) was the largest with 10 participants and was won by Jake Bayus in 32:18 (note to Keel-Haulers: paddle down the lower slip in your creek boat and see how you compare to that. Then start training to beat it!). Three paddle boarders impressively navigated the race at full speed, as well as one father + daughter tandem canoe entry. The lower slip typically takes well over an hour to casually descend, but the entire field made it to the finish line at Harris Bridge in just 45 minutes. Two racers - Erin Barket and Elijah Evans - came out for the race specifically to earn points toward this year's IR Headwaters Racing Series, and won their classes. Both continued their trajectory to victory in the series and were ultimately crowned Queen and King after their performance at the Stonycreek Rendezvous downriver race on May 19th. They won prizes graciously donated by Immersion Research, Wilderness Voyageurs, and Highwater Hobbies.

Next year's SlipRace and Headwaters Series is already in the planning for next April, so stay tuned for an announcement, and start looking for a fast boat to race!

General Chaos and the Lower Gauley
June 25, 2023
By Doug (Freeze) Ackerman

Author: Doug (Freeze) Ackerman

Date: June 25, 2023

River: Lower Gauley

Level: ~1400 cfs at Belva

Coordinator: Doug Ackerman (if you can call it coordination)

Participants: Gary & Joey Biehle, Fred Lockwood, Mike Duvall, David Herron, Doug Ackerman

It has been a while since anyone posted a trip report here [on the WVWA bulletin board], so I thought I should produce another soporific tome.

Saturday the 24th was a great run on the Dries. The supposed release level is 2200-2500 cfs, but we got around 3800, which was a very nice level. After this, my Ohio friends and I wanted a repeat on Sunday the 25th. We spread the word to meet at 11 and had half a dozen or so others interested. Around 9am Sunday we realized that the flow in the Dries

had come up almost to 10,000cfs, higher than many wanted to attempt. We were cancelling out and I spent a while trying to contact everyone else about the situation (a modern nightmare). Fortunately, Brent Samples said he would run at the higher flow and lead anyone else that showed up. Thanks, Brent.

Meanwhile we fretted about what to run. The three Saturday folks from Ohio were with me and two more were 2/3 of the way here from Friendsville, MD when all this broke loose. Little else had any water at all, but the Gauley at Belva had 1400 cfs and appeared likely to hold through the day. So we decided on the Lower Gauley.

The four of us stopped by the Dries takeout on the way to Swiss to be sure the semi-abortive trip was going OK. Everyone there seemed happy with their chance to run with Brent at the higher level.



We continued on to Swiss, slowly organizing the six of us, then on to Woods Ferry. We finally put in about 1pm. None (or very few) had seen the Lower Gauley at this level, so we expected to be very cautious. We tried to spread out the paddlers so that we did not have everyone in the rapid at the same time committed to a line that proved unrunnable (translation - I ran sweep and did not start into a rapid until I saw at least one person had

finished it OK). As it turned out, we never had more than half the group committed to a sketchy line (translation - the second half, observing this, found a better line).

Progressing deliberately down the river, we got to the right hand turn rapid just beyond the tunnel entrance and at the top of the pool above Backender. Our lesser leader chose a far left line that looked very odd to some of us used to running farther right. The leader executed some involuntary play moves before reaching the runout. The second in line flipped and rolled doing the same. The third flipped and swam in the same manner. Numbers 4, 5, and 6, two of whom were the skeptics noted before, decided that the normal line to the right looked better (at the very least, no worse). It was better. There were no more antics here. However, having a swimmer before we even got to Backender seemed a bit ominous. By the time we got to Backender we had been paddling well over an hour, another minor concern.

At Backender, we expected there to be a calm area between a rocky beginning and something, possibly significant, at the bottom. It proved to be exactly that. The Backender hole was big, more like a pour-over, and extended all the way to the rock on the right shore. But on the left there was a nice tongue that most of us ran. The last of us ran into the left of the big hole and came right through, so maybe it was not as powerful as it looked.

Above Koontz's Flume, we were concerned about what the right flume might be like. It turned out to be very similar to what we see at higher levels. A fairly smooth drop into a couple of breaking waves. There was a pesky rock in the top approach that we had to go around, but this worked well. It mainly served to distract us when we really wanted to be looking downstream.

At Canyon Doors the first drop ran very much as normal. The second part looked very shallow in the main part of the usual right line. Five of us just ran the easy line to the left by the play hole. One of us ran way right over against the wall, a run that, while successful, did not inspire followers.

Junkyard ran pretty normally on the right, although the little drop at the top was more powerfully twisty.

At Upper Mash, we ran more or less the line leading to the boof rock. Except the boof rock was high and dry. As we neared it (very near) we cut right just behind another rock and cruised down essentially the normal non-boof line. This right turn was much later than normal but familiar and effective.

Lower Mash ran pretty much as normal - to the left of the big hole then cut right. This move was much easier than usual with less current.

Comment - I make it sound like all of these runs were fast one- or two-move runs like we have at normal release. In reality, there was mucho rock-dodging at all times just to stay near the intended path. The time spent in each rapids was probably double the normal time. This was unusual, challenging, and fun (most of the time).

Diagonal Ledges was very similar to normal levels. The surf hole was there. We did a bit more weaving between the holes at the bottom than I normally do. We did not stop to play as we were getting a bit hungry. It was 3:30. We ate a very quick lunch at the bottom.

Comment - Despite it being one of the longest days of Summer, we were running rather late in the day. We tended to drift and talk through the flat stretches. Several times I had to remind us that we were already on a pace to finish well after 5pm and that we should paddle while we gabbed.

The top of Gateway to Heaven was a shallow minefield. I think every one of us took a different line ranging from center to far right. Looking back up, the far left may have been best. The "gate" at the bottom was a smaller version of that at normal release and ran easily.

Rocky Top and BFR ran much as normal, albeit with scraping and maybe a bit of swearing.

Upper Stairstep was a slow run dodging a few rocks and some decent holes. Usually a tall, beautiful wave, the main part of Lower Stairstep was a big hole. We found a nice tongue on the left shore. Our greater leader went right into the hole and momentarily questioned whether he would come out, but he did. Appropriately warned, the rest of us behind ran the tongue.

Cliff Side ran pretty normally, but the breaking wave below the tiny left eddy broke hard right. I planned to make a quick right turn, but it was much quicker than expected. I thought it was fine, but others thought I was getting slammed to that side. Everyone else did OK, including one that ran over the diverting rock on the left in a manner that did not look possible before seeing it done. No problem.

At Rattlesnake, our greater leader took a line down the left shore. There were a lot of rocks and he missed maybe half of them. The next paddler much the same. I usually run this very far right, catching an eddy immediately behind the last shore rock to avoid a significant hole. As I anticipated, at low water that hole looked much meaner and from upstream seemed to have a rock in it. I could not see behind the last shore rock, but I expected the eddy to still be OK. I ran that line, the eddy was fine, and I caught it well, staying away from the rock/hole. It was a good, clean run, although not inspiring to observers. They noted that I did it well, but had no room to screw up. Everyone else ran the left, polishing many rocks.

Tombstone was similar to normal release, but the pesky rock that is usually just under water right before the first drop was dry. Our greater leader decided to go farther right, through a different chute that cut from right to left. It turned out to have a pin rock at the end and the first ones running over there each put on a show but did not pin. They motioned for the rest of us to stay left, essentially in the usual line. We skirted the pesky rock to the left then ran the chute behind it with no problem. In their defense, the leaders could not see behind the pesky rock and decided to run something more visible, albeit worse.

Pure Screaming Hell was the cherry on the top of all this. It took a long time to run. The upper part was a bunch of rocks to paddle around. We ran roughly in the normal path, but back and forth left and right dodging rocks and a few holes. Most of us ended up in the eddy on the left above Purgatory Hole, which was just as daunting as normal release. With the reduced current, we were able to dash over to the right of Purgatory and get back into the left eddy below. Below the Hell hole, the features that are usually some minor holes and breaking waves were all decent holes. The best line was to surf right across the left shoulder of the Hell hole to get to the right, a semi-gutsy move. Everyone did this well.

All day we had been dreading the paddle out to Swiss, but it actually went reasonably fast. Partly because we all had a ton of stuff to discuss about our now-completed run (despite this upbeat-sounding narrative, there was a lot of messing up and plenty of ridicule to distribute). Several of the remaining small rapids were shallow, but all were easily passable.

We got to Swiss at 5:30. This was a long day on the lower, even with us trying not to dally. I have run a marathon in four and half hours. At the Dries we had left Tom Willis to run with Brent. But Tom wanted to catch up with us for Monday. As we got out, and so late, we discussed the need to send Tom a text. No need. He was asleep in his truck beside our shuttle vehicles. He said that he got a good nap because we had spent 5-6 times as long on our trip as he did on his Dries run with Brent.

Overall this was really fun. It required many skills that I don't normally use so much on the Gauley. I would like to do this some more and I would recommend it to others. For me it was a new way to run this section.

Even with all the chaos in the morning, at the end of the day it seemed like everybody, except maybe Kevin Fletcher, got a good day on the river. Sorry, Kevin.

The river level was changing slightly during the time of our run. It was probably dropping from around 1500 cfs at Belva to 1350. I think 1400 is a reasonable call.

If you are still awake at this point, your insomnia may be incurable.

Keel-hauler Trip Planning **Calendar of Events on our website**

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/keelhauler/permalink/3484075311865028/)

Friday, July 14-16

New River Trip

Where: New River ([map](#))

Description

Class 2/3-3/4

Camping - Rays campground in Hico WV. Rays has both tent camping and there are a half dozen cabins for rent that hold up to 8 people. Call ahead for reservations. 304 618 9492 or you can reserve online. There is a nice bath house and restroom if you've never been there before.

If camping is not your thing there are multiple hotels in the Summersville area.

Trip description: Cunard to Fayette station (canyon)— class 3/4, 7 miles. I will personally lead this trip for anyone new to this river and looking for some guidance.

Thurmond to Cunard — class 2/3, 7 miles

I am trying to incorporate this section into the trip as well for those of you not ready to do the canyon. I am looking for someone who might be willing to lead this section, if interested please let me know.

Meet -Sat/Sun New River visitors center parking lot 10:00 am

After river celebration at Pies n Pints pizza in Fayetteville Saturday evening if that interests you.

Please post back on the KH FB post, or If you have any questions you can reach Michael Bailey at 4127367880

Hope you can make it, bring a friend, the more the merrier ! SYOTR

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/keelhauler/permalink/3484075311865028/>

Saturday, July 22

Upper Yough Race

Saturday, August 5

Potomac Little Falls Race

Friday, August 11

Lower Yough Summer Club Picnic and Meeting

Saturday, August 12

Lower Yough Summer Club Picnic and Meeting

Great Falls Race and Potomac Festival

Maine Whitewater Championship #1 Kennebec Race

[\(8\) MWWC 2023 Kennebec Race | Facebook](#)

Sunday, August 13

» 8:00pm Lower Yough Summer Club Picnic and Meeting

» 4:00am Great Falls Race and Potomac Festival

Saturday, August 19

Maine Whitewater Championship #2 W. Branch Penobscot Race

[\(8\) MWWC 2023 Penobscot Race | Facebook](#)

Saturday, August 26

Green River (Ladies) Takeover [\(8\) 2023 Women's Green River Takeover \(10th Annual\) | Facebook](#)

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, 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.com.

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, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!
The deadline for the August 2023 issue of the newsletter is 7/23/2023. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews

July 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news AUGUST, 2023



Next Keel-hauler Meeting:

This year again, the Keel-haulers will be having the club picnic and summer meeting at the Lower Yough from August 11-13th, the second weekend in August. Come spend time with your friends camping, socializing, boating, and eating.

We will be camping at Benner's Meadow Run Campground at group campsite 507 and the cost is \$12/person/night. The reservation will be under Seth Anderson/Keel-haulers. You will pay upon arrival. [Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins | Stay PA! \(bennersmeadowrun.com\)](http://bennersmeadowrun.com)

The club meeting and potluck will be held at the pavilion near the pond and our group camping at 6 pm Saturday night. EVERYONE please bring a dish to share. The club will provide hotdogs and hamburgers.

There will be paddle trips on the Middle Yough at 9 am (organized by Brian Smart, Jennifer Hughes, and Ted Moore) and Lower Yough at 9 am (organized by Matt Fredmonsky, Mike Duvall, Mike Gillam, and Seth Anderson). More info about meeting locations and time will be posted on the Facebook event page.

If you have any questions, please contact Brianna Wiser on Facebook, text (814)644-1457, or by email briannawiser@gmail.com.

Membership Information By John Kobak

It is nearing the end of our membership year, start renewing now.

Remember all 2023 memberships will expire on Oct 1, 2023

All members should **start paying their 2024 dues now**, no need to submit an application.

Pay your 2024 Dues or pay for 2024 and 2025 and save \$4.00 by using this link
<https://www.keelhauler.com/ezpay24>

Over 150 Members have already paid dues for 2024, so please disregard if you are already paid for 2024.

You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **3**, then you are paid for 2023. If it shows **34**, you are also paid for 2024. This file is password protected for members only; use the current 2023 password which is sent out in our monthly e-mail.

Also the special New Member Prices are still available.

Tell your non-member friends & paddling buddies if they join now, they **Save 35%**. So instead of paying for a \$20 membership for only 2023 they can also pay for 2024, Instead of a \$40 membership cost for both 2023-24, they only need to pay \$26. They just fill out our [Registration Form](#), and their payment options will be displayed.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of July 30, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,321.45

CD 1077 \$2,321.18

CD'S (2) \$4,642.63

Checking \$8,975.27

Total \$13,617.90

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2023**

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5. Tuesday - 8/22/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake
6. Sunday - 8/27/23 12pm - 3pm = Munroe Falls Lake
7. Tuesday - 8/29/23 5pm to 7pm = Indigo Lake
8. Tuesday - 9 /5/23 5pm - 7pm = Munroe Falls Lake

For more information, please contact clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

**Mountain Watershed Cleanup
West Newton River
September 9th**

Meet us at the **West Newton Boat Ramp** between 9am – 9:30 am. We will shuttle to Cedar Creek, then paddle and clean back downstream to West Newton, likely finishing around 2:30 – 3:00 pm.

Canoes, rafts, paddles, and life vests are available to borrow for the event. If you'd rather use a raft, please email Eric@mtwatershed.com to reserve one – we have a limited number available!

Schedule for the Day:

9:00 am – Meet at West Newton

9:30 am – Shuttle to Cedar Creek, sign waivers, have snacks

10:15 am – Gear up!

10:30 am – Launch from Cedar Creek, pick up trash!

2:00 pm – Float under the West Newton Bridge

2:30 pm – Take out at the Municipal Access near Giant Eagle in West Newton

3:30 pm – Finish up and Head to Bloom Brew

*****If you have a truck with hauling capacity to pull a trailer and wouldn't mind helping us with shuttle and/or transporting rafts from the MWA office to Cedar Creek, please reach out to eric@mtwatershed.com*****

This is a family friendly event. However, kids under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult!

After the cleanup, join us at Bloom Brew for a drink after a hard day of work!

Mountain Watershed Association

(724) 455-4200

Register here: [West Newton River Cleanup - Mountain Watershed Association
mtwatershed.com](https://mtwatershed.com/mtwatershed.com)

[Volunteer with National River Cleanup® \(americanrivers.org\)](https://americanrivers.org)

**Boater Humor....
You might be a paddler if...**

It's scary how true many of these are!)

You might be a paddler if...

...You love rainy weekends.

...After paddling a few winters, the Polar Bear Club doesn't seem so crazy to you.

...You get cranky when it's been a month or more since one of your favorite rivers hit flood stage.

...You can't drive over a bridge without looking for water under it.

...You maneuver your vehicle on superhighways by 'eddyding out' behind trucks and leaning into turns.

...A dress shirt and tie no longer bother you because both are more comfortable than a dry suit neck gasket.

...You carry your favorite river guidebook, which is tattered and beer stained, with you everywhere you go.

...You perk up whenever you hear someone say, "golly!" or "cheat!"

...The only time you ever go to a swimming pool is for roll practice.

...The recirculation created by turning the water faucet on full blast as you're washing dishes fascinates you.

...During the week, your boat never leaves your car-top rack.

...You "pour over" streamflow readings the way a stockbroker scans the markets every day.

...You practically salivate at the sound of rainfall ... and will do a ring around of all local weather stations during flood season.

...There's no room on your speed-dial for anything but gauge readings and the numbers of people with nicknames like Psycho.

...You paid more for a roof-rack for the boat than you spent for anniversary presents (combined).

...You tie down the boat better than you seatbelt in the kids.

...Your paddle costs more than a week's paycheck.

..."Waterproof" means "a little damp" or "might-float."

...Your friends or relatives are shocked when you answer the phone at home on a weekend.

...You can't drive over a bridge without looking for water under it.

...The smell of old polypro doesn't bother you.

...Your wife says you love your boat and your boat'n buddies more than her, and she sounds just like your first wife...and you're second.

...Driving 800 miles for a weekend on the river doesn't seem strange to you.

...Window shade means more than keeping the sun out.

...You choose a new car based on whether or not your rack system will fit it.

...You co-workers (and non-boating friends, family and your spouse) will not ride in your vehicle between April and September (or whatever your boating season is) because of the ode de polypro.

...The sight of a waterfall gives you the uncontrollable urge to urinate in a nearby bush- while you search out the line.

...Your boat is worth more than your car.

...Even in the dead of winter, you never actually lose the PFD tan lines.

...You build your new house as close as possible to the flood plain.

...Your dog loves to roll in your pile of paddling clothes.

...You're all dressed up and don't notice that you're being rained on.

...You measure major purchases relative to the cost of a new boat ... ('Hmmm, that new computer will cost me about 2 1/2 kayak units')

...You move to the Midwest temporarily and whine about missing your kayak, more than you whine about missing your boyfriend or girlfriend.

...You're the one with the Bright Sunny Smile on the Cold Rainy Day.

...Every once in a while you touch your paddle, just to touch it.
...Every once in a while you let go of your paddle, just to eat or something.
...When your non boating friends visit your home or your car they ask "Do you have dogs?"
...The idea of a 15k mile per year car lease seems ridiculous.
...You have a bathing suit that's wet from March to October.
...Your Mom has stopped saying "be careful this weekend".
...You've never set up a tent when it's light out.
...You have friends that you don't recognize without their helmet, pfd, paddling jacket, and boat ensemble.
...You can ID make and model on a car topped canoe or kayak at a quarter mile.
..."Wet, sticky hole" and "blowing a ferry" in casual conversation don't give you pause.
...You always have sinus congestion on Monday morning.
...You leave your glasses strap on at night.
...All career, personal and financial decisions are judged by the criteria of "How will this increase my paddling time?"
...You visit Niagara Falls and think "This may be runnable."
...You build a 2 car garage addition and you still can't park your car inside.
...You bug out on your wife and kids to go paddling for the weekend because you are SURE your priorities are right.
...You deliberately watch the whole commercial just to see the kayak on the car.
...If you live in a town with a river running through it, you give street directions with descriptions like "upstream of the ..." or "two blocks down on river left ..."
...You find yourself humming Weather Channel tunes.
...It takes longer and longer to get your "land legs" back. Solid ground "feels funny."
...You feel all mushy inside when your boyfriend or girlfriend gives you a dry top for Christmas.
...You can't look at water in a gutter without imagining tiny runs and miniature waves and holes.
...After a car wreck, the first thing you check for is damage to your boat.

Not in our backyard, but still a wonderful event!

['Momentous:' US advances largest dam demolition in history | AP News](#)

And: **6 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVALS**
[6 Things You Need To Know About The Klamath River Dam Removals \(americanrivers.org\)](#)

Keel-hauler Trip Planning **Calendar of Events on our website**

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Friday through Sunday, August 11-13th

Lower Yough Summer Club Picnic and Meeting. Meeting Saturday at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass, please. See first page for more details.

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

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Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, 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.com.

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, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!

The deadline for the **September 2023 issue of the newsletter is **8/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

August 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news SEPTEMBER, 2023



Next Keel-hauler Meeting: To be announced...

**2024 KHCC Membership Dues are Now Payable
By John Kobak-Membership Chairman**

All members should start paying their 2024 dues now, no need to submit an application.

Pay your 2024 Dues or pay for 2024 and 2025 and save \$4.00 by using this link <https://www.keelhauler.com/ezpay24>

Over 175 Members have already paid dues for 2024, so please **disregard if you are already paid** for 2024. The e-mail you were mailed will indicate whether you are paid for 2024 or not.

You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **3**, then you are paid for 2023. If it shows **34**, you are also paid for 2024.

The *membership* listing is password protected and is for our members only; use the current 2023 password which is sent out in our monthly e-mail.

Also the special New Member Prices are still available.

Tell your non-member friends & paddling buddies if they join now, they **Save 35%**. So instead of paying for a \$20 membership for only 2023 they can also pay for 2024, Instead

of a \$40 membership cost for both 2023-24, they only need to pay \$26. They just fill out our [Registration Form](#), and their payment options will be displayed.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of July 30, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,321.45
<u>CD 1077</u>	<u>\$2,321.18</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,642.63

<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$8,975.27</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,617.90</u>

**Conservation News
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Please welcome Kristen Maag and Annaleigh Koch to our conservation committee. We will be working together to bring conservation news from our partners to the members. Conservation and access are a big part of what membership dollars support and why memberships are important! The following is a mix of conservation and access organizations and in many cases, they are both. Click on the links to find out more about an organization near you. Please support these organizations further by participating in their cleanups and other water quality endeavors when you are paddling in their watersheds. Check out their websites and sign up for their newsletters. And help us by becoming a member or renewing your membership!

[American Rivers](#) National River Cleanups

American Whitewater All Keel-hauler Members can **get \$10 off** their yearly AW membership dues. AW's website and river stewardship projects are funded through memberships.

[Friends of the Cheat](#)

[Friends of the Crooked River](#)

[Friends of the New River Gorge](#)

[Grand Canyon Private Boaters](#)

[Mountain Watershed Assoc.](#) - Yough Defense Fund
[Nature Conservancy](#)
New - [Onion Bag Project](#)
[Stonycreek](#) - Benscreek Canoe Club
[Save Slippery Rock Save Slippery Rock](#)
[River Network](#)
[WV Rivers Coalition](#)

Jacki Z

Paddling History? From Ted Moore

Keel-haulers - and maybe global kayaking - history may have been made this summer. That's an impossible-to-verify claim, of course, but this newsletter challenges the world to come up with any other whitewater adventure that included 2 paddlers (not passengers) with a 79-year difference in their ages.

The elder of the pair was the legendary John Kobak, a Keel-hauler OG if ever there were one. Well into his 80s, John continues to expertly paddle reaches like the Upper Youghiogheny, Cheat, and similar spirited runs. Accompanying him in early August was an entirely competent 7-year-old, powering his own kayak down a somewhat tamer series of waves, holes, and eddies, all the while watched over by a personal safety team led by Dad.

When I spoke with John about this during the annual Keel-haulers Summer Meeting and Picnic a few weeks ago, he remarked on how far the sport had come in the decades since he and others like him pioneered it so long ago. "There are boats, paddles, and stretches of water that are perfect for confident and adventurous kids like this. Everyone talks about how important it is to get young people outdoors and keep them active, and they're right. What may not be so well-known is how whitewater boating can help parents safely do that. The young man I paddled with is a perfect example. And now that I think about it, if he wants to, he can be doing this for 80 more years."

If you're the parent of a child you think might be ready to explore what this sport and our club has to offer, we encourage you to visit our website and/or join our Facebook group. The club is working on some exciting new ideas about how we can better help everyone, no matter where they are in life, See Us on the River. More about that early in 2024.

Paddling in Central Europe

By Rick Feinberg

Over the first two weeks of August, Nancy and I visited our son and his family in the Czech Republic. We arrived on Tuesday, August 2nd, and Joe arranged for a multi-day family outing in Český Krumlov. That small city was once the center of noble governance in southern Bohemia, and it features the second largest castle in the Czech Republic—close in size and majesty to the famous Prague Castle in its namesake city. Like Prague Castle, it's on the Vltava River, but it's about 100 miles upstream, surrounded by spectacular forests and steep hills. The city, itself, is filled with restaurants, pubs, museums, souvenir shops, parks (including the castle garden), and a few churches. It also features a prominent synagogue that was constructed in the early 20th Century, survived the holocaust, was renovated in the 1980s, and then again in 2011. Our plan was to spend a day paddling the Vltava, but for our first couple of days the weather was cold and rainy. We didn't come with cold-weather paddling gear, so we spent that time exploring the castle and museums. Then, on Tuesday, August 8th, Joe rented two "canoes" from an outfitter in Rožmberk nad Vltavou ("Rosenberg on the Vltava"), maybe 15 miles upstream from Český Krumlov. We got there by bus, stored most of our gear at the bus station, and arrived at the outfitter around 9 AM.



View of Český Krumlov Castle from the banks of the Vltava River



Sample of watercraft at outfitter on upper Vltava

One of our vessels was a fairly standard canoe, made from hard plastic, with gunwales curving slightly inward to minimize the tendency to ship water while traversing a wave train. The other was an inflatable “ducky,” but intended to be paddled as a canoe rather than a kayak. Each boat came with a large plastic waterproof barrel for our gear, and the ducky had an inflatable pillow in the center, supposedly for a third occupant to sit comfortably. Unfortunately, the pillow had a valve that released air as soon as someone sat down; so it deflated quickly and, for most of the trip, was useless. Joe and our daughter-in-law, Tereza, took the plastic canoe. Nancy and I went in the ducky with Konrad, our 12-year-old grandson.

We put on the river about 9:30. The upper Vltava was mostly flat water, with some Class I riffles. That was OK, as it took time to get used to what, to us, were new boats. And the scenery was stunning as we made our way through forests and mountains. Not far from the put-in, we passed a magnificent castle on river right—a striking contrast with anything to be found on American waterways. Most of the day was chilly and windy, with temperatures in the 60s. By afternoon it reached 70°F, but the sky remained overcast, with a threat of rain. With our limited gear, we appreciated not having to deal with lots of challenging rapids.



Castle on river right, just after the put-in

Another point of contrast with US rivers was that every few miles we passed a floating snack bar that sold munchies and a variety of drinks, including beer and hard liquor. While American paddlers sometimes carry beer cans on the river and take an occasional swig, it's strongly discouraged. And, in North America, I've never come across commercial vendors actively conducting business on the water.

Despite the Czech Republic's landlocked geography, water sports are popular. A common greeting is *ahoj* (pronounced "ahoy"), and Prague has a solid Class III slalom course for kayaks on the Vltava, downstream from the city center. On the upper section, where we were paddling, there were dozens of boat liveries and we were often surrounded by scores plastic canoes, inflatable rafts, and duckies. Further downstream, when the river grew a bit more challenging, decked whitewater kayaks were added to the mix. That aspect of the trip reminded me of the lower Yough; if anything, there were more boats on the Vltava. In the few exciting spots, a half dozen or more boats often lined up awaiting their turn to run the gauntlet.



Prague whitewater slalom course

Konrad had little paddling experience, and both boats were heavy. Nancy heroically spent most of her time in the middle of our ducky. With no viable seat, she had to kneel on the soft plastic floor, which eventually got a bit sandy. So, by the time we reached the take-out, her knees were sore from kneeling on the sand. Konrad, in the bow, had lots of energy but found paddling hard work nonetheless. Until I got used to the big duckie it felt pretty clumsy, and once or twice we got hung up in shallow, rocky patches. Also, I haven't been out much this year, and after a few hours my hands began to blister from the paddles. Along the way, we passed a half dozen or more elaborate campgrounds, with tents, campers' cabins, snack bars, and playgrounds. Including stops for snacks and lunch, it took almost eight hours to reach the take-out.



One of the many campgrounds along the river

The trip was mostly flat water, punctuated by Class I riffles. Over the last few miles, however, the river grew a bit more exciting. As we approached Český Krumlov, we encountered a series of six dams. Each had a sluiceway, allowing paddlers to bypass the dam without portaging or having to confront recirculating hydraulics. The sluiceways were all steep, and most of them had stone walls with narrow passageways, so steering was impossible once one entered. As our boat neared the bottom, waves splashed over the bow. In some ways, the experience resembled a roller coaster in an amusement park, providing maximum excitement while demanding minimal skill. Based on gradient, velocity, and waves, I would have rated those drops as Class II; but since the runs were straight, with no opportunity to steer, the difficulty was more like Class 1. I wore a rain jacket under my PFD and didn't get wet at all. Joe and Tereza, in the canoe, had no water-resistant clothing, so they became seriously wet and cold.



Small raft running the sluiceway next to one of the dams. Others are lined up above the dam, waiting their turn.

The one drop that posed a significant challenge was at a large dam on the outskirts of Český Krumlov. With a gradient that approached 45°, it was almost steep enough to feel like running a waterfall. In addition, it had a three-foot standing wave at the bottom. The duckie in front of us hit the wave, went flying, and capsized, sending paddlers, gear, the boat, and paddles all over the river. A bystander waded across the pool below the dam to retrieve one of the paddles; Nancy and I stood by in case a serious problem developed. In the end, however, it didn't look like those adventurers experienced anything more than an adrenaline rush and a good soaking. As for us: Nancy and Konrad briefly flew from their seats but landed back down in the ducky, none the worse for wear.

We got off the river at about 5:30, reclaimed our dry clothing from the locker at the bus station, walked another mile to catch the nearest train, and got back to Prague around 11 o'clock. The day was not the pinnacle of a river-paddling adventure, but in many ways it was a memorable outing.

Safety Inquest into Ohiopyle Rafting Death in August 2022

[Rafting fatality inquest jurors recommend drastic changes at Ohiopyle | TribLIVE.com](https://www.triblive.com/story/news/local/2022/08/22/ohiopyle-rafting-death-inquest-jurors-recommend-drastic-changes/7018517002/)

Upper Yough Fundraiser



2023 Upper Yough Fundraiser



In memory of Tommy Piros



Calling all friends of the Upper Youghiogheny River!

We hope this message finds you well! We are excited to announce the annual fundraiser for American Whitewater and the Upper Youghiogheny River access! The 2023 fundraiser holds a special significance this year as we come together not only to support river conservation and access but also to honor the memory of a dear friend and advocate, **Tommy Piros**, who left us all too soon.

Tommy's passion for the river and his unwavering enthusiasm have left an indelible mark on all of us. In his honor, we will be planting a memorial tree at the Upper Yough put-in access, symbolizing the growth and strength that Tommy brought to our community. This tree will stand as a living testament to his spirit and dedication.

Funds raised during this event will directly support the ongoing efforts of American Whitewater to safeguard and preserve the public access of the Upper Youghiogheny River. Our goal this year is \$1500 and we have made it very easy to make a donation of your choosing. JUST CLICK THE LINK BELOW
bit.ly/UpperYoughFundraiser2023

Thank you all for your continued support, we hope you have had a wonderful Yough season and we look forward to seeing you on the river!

Posted by Shimmy Shimrock

**Roll Sessions at Akron University
have started**

Tuesdays, 8pm to 10pm - Akron, OH

Need help?

Are you interested in learning basic kayaking skills? Come practice with us at Akron University's Olympic sized swimming pool. The club will have a presence every week and will be more than happy to work with any paddler who requests help.

The Keel-haulers Club has a roll instructor that will work with students on learning the kayak roll. If you are interested in this service, **you must email us** at clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com and we will work to get him there to work

with you personally. We request that you are or become an active paid club member to take advantage of this service.

Equipment and Logistics:

- Boats, PFDs (life jackets) and paddles are provided as needed.
- Personal kayaks are permitted so long as they are clean and free of debris. Boats may be transported through the side entrance of the ONAT pool (door #14). Please note that these doors may not be propped open under any circumstance.
- Participants may arrive up to 15 minutes early to transport kayaks to the pool deck and use the pool locker rooms.
- Boats are not permitted on the water before 8pm.
- All participants must be out of the ONAT facility by 10pm. This means planning ahead to exit the water as early as necessary to ensure you are out of the building on time, including kayak transport and locker room use.

Dates:

August 29th through December 5th

Registration:

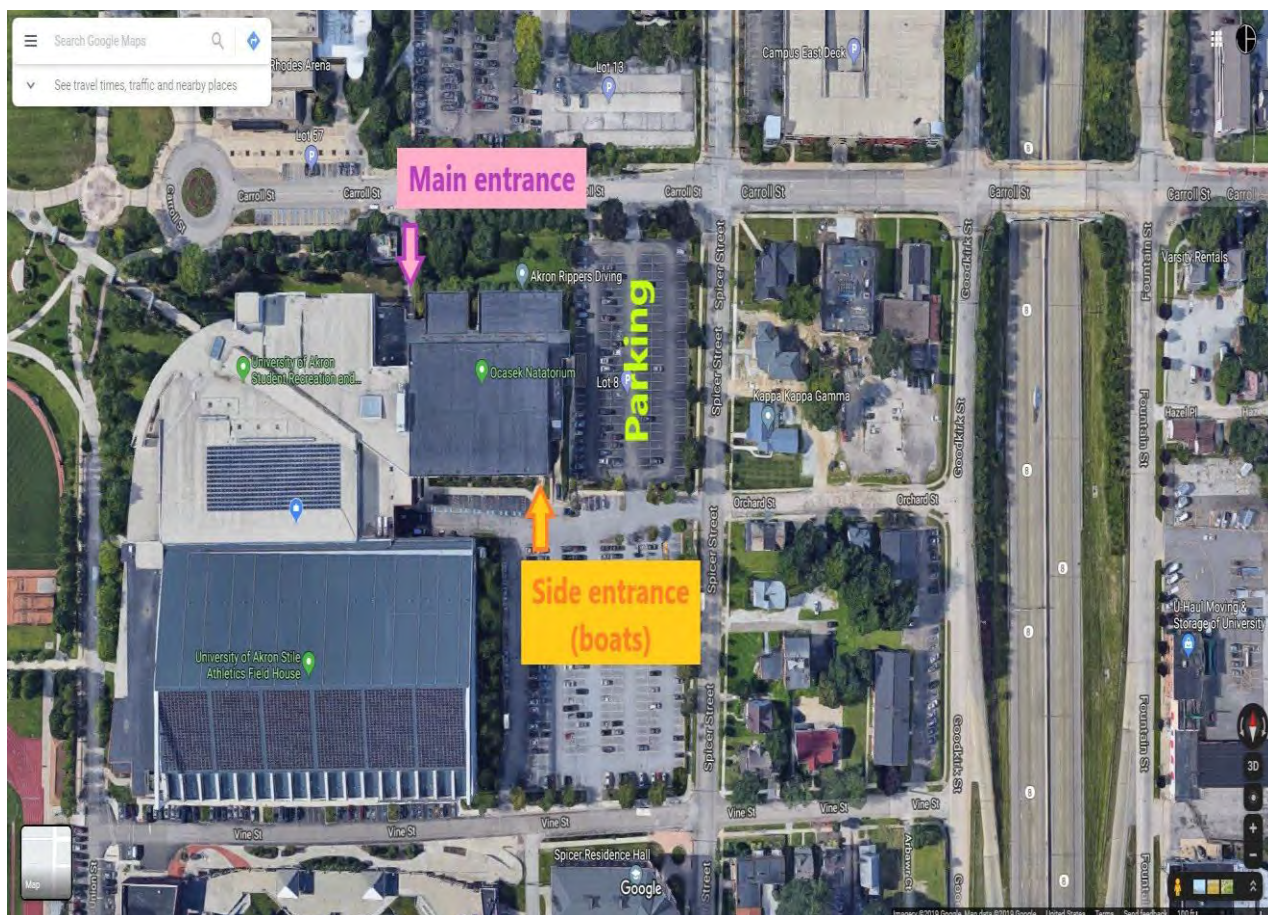
Pay \$10 in person or \$8 online, or pay for a semester for \$80

Passes can be [purchased online](#) for single sessions or an entire semester. Typically, there are 15 sessions per semester. Single use passes are only valid for the next upcoming Open Kayaking session. In addition to payment, a completed waiver must be on file for the current semester in order to participate.

Upon arrival every participant must sign-in with our staff and receive a wrist band to wear for the duration of the session. Staff are available in the leisure pool area and ONAT pool deck for sign-in.

Location:

289 S Union St, Akron, OH 44304 = [Google Map](#)



For more information: Jon Dent, Manager, Outdoor Adventure
 at jdent1@uakron.edu or 330-972-7357 or [Open Kayaking Site](#)
 or clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

**Keel-hauler Trip Planning
 Calendar of Events on our website**

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)
keelhauler.com

ACA Introduction to Kayaking Course

When: Sat, September 16, 10:30am – 3:30pm

Where: Rocky Fork Lake North Beach ([map](#))

Description: Event: fb://event/1048462416064674 [more details»](#)

Yough Fall Colors Trip

When: Fri, October 20, 6pm – Sun, October 22, 6pm

Where: Tall Oaks Campground ([map](#))

Description: Event: fb://event/832109288224800

More details to come!

2023 Gauley Schedule

Date	Trip/Event	RR	Organizer	Phone #
September	2023			
9/8-10	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	??	
9/8-10	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	??	
9/15-17	Upper & Lower Gauley (Festival Weekend) (WV)	27-33	Cliff Wire	440-669-7177
9/23-24	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
9/29-10/1	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	??	
9/29-10/1	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	??	
October				
10/6, 7	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	??	
10/6-8	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	??	

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman:** John Kobak

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, Westlake, OH 44145

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Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!
The deadline for the **October 2023 issue of the newsletter is **9/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

September 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

 **OCTOBER, 2023**



Next Keel-hauler Meeting:

The Oct meeting will be a remote meeting. Date: Oct 18th at 6:30pm EST

<https://www.keelhauler.com/events-calendar/octmeetin2023>

Join with this link:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9362916315956?p=6Yxc73uO4wFJthb5>

<https://fb.me/e/4qmBeV5f9>

The proposed slate of Officers and the budget for the 2024 year (Starts October, 2023)
will be voted on:

Position	2023	Proposed Slate for 2024
President	Brian Smart	Brian Smart
Vice President	Ted Moore	Ted Moore
Secretary	Jennifer Hughes	Jennifer Hughes
Treasurer	Kelly Miller	Anthony Lazzaro
Trustee 2022-2024	John Banach	John Banach 2022-2024
Trustee 2023-2025	Mike Gillam	Mike Gillam 2023-2025
Trustee 2024-2026	Stefan Sandelin 2022-2023	Kelly Miller 2024-2026

Proposed budget to be voted on starts on page 2 of the newsletter.

Thank you to all of our volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!

The full slate of Officers and position volunteers for the 2024 year:

Position	2023	Proposed Slate for 2024
President	Brian Smart	Brian Smart
Vice President	Ted Moore	Ted Moore
Secretary	Michael Duvall	Jennifer Hughes
Treasurer	Kelly Miller	Anthony Lazzaro
Trustee 2022-2024	John Banach	John Banach 2022-2024
Trustee 2023-2025	Mike Gillam	Mike Gillam 2023-2025
Trustee 2024-2026	Stefan Sandelin 2022-2023	Kelly Miller 2024-2026
Conservation	Jacki Zevenbergen	Jacki Zevenbergen Annaleigh Koch Kristen Maag
Membership	John Kobak	John Kobak
Training/Instruction	Mark Spang	Mark Spang (ACA LVL1/LGT/FAT/CPR/AED) Josh Scott (ACA LVL3 CKI/WFR/CPR) Moneen McBride (ACA LVL 1/FAT/CPR/AED) Seth Anderson (SWR/FAT/CPR/AED) Brian Smart (SWR/WFA/CPR/AED) Ted Moore (WFA/CPR/AED/ACA L2) John Zevenbergen (FAT/CPR/AED/ACA L2/SWR)
Safety & Rescue	Seth Anderson	Seth Anderson
Pool Sessions	Bret Rose	Linda Kuhajda
Library	Cliff Wire	Cliff Wire
Recreational	Dan Hardwick	Dan Hardwick
(Erie) Sea Kayaking	Lena Bear	Josh Scott
Trip Schedule	Ethan Kay and Andrea Morgan	Ethan Kay and Andrea Morgan
Newsletter	Kelly Miller	Kelly Miller
Meeting Coordinator	Jeremiah Richard	Jeremiah Richard
Website Development Team	Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Domenic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, and Rachel Faber	Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Domenic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, and Rachel Faber

Proposed 2024 Budget to be voted on:

	2024 Budget
ASSETS	
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$9,568.73
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$4,643.48 without end of Sept interest

INCOME	
Conservation	\$150.00
Dues	\$6,400.00
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,650.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,862.21
LIABILITIES	
EXPENSE	
Conservation Donations	\$5,250.00
Access Donations*	\$600.00
Internet Domain	\$50.00
Webpage	\$300.00
Marketing	\$600.00
Education/Training/Outreach	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$750.00
Meeting Hall	\$1,200.00
Postage and Supply	\$50.00
Refreshments	\$600.00
Yearbook Expense	\$0.00
Pool Sessions	\$1,500.00
Slippery Rock Race	\$100.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$12,000.00
OVERALL END of 2024 TOTAL	\$8,862.21
DONATIONS:	
American Whitewater	\$1,500.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$1,000.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00
American Rivers	\$300.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00
River Network	\$100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00
Portage Park Dist.	\$100.00
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$600.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00
Kent Tannery Park	\$100.00
Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund (SSRC)	\$500.00
Additional Conservation	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$5,850.00

**2024 KHCC Membership Dues are Now Payable
By John Kobak-Membership Chairman**

All members should **start paying their 2024 dues now**, no need to submit an application. Use this link to pay your 2024 Dues or pay for 2024 & 2025 and save \$4.00
[KHCC EZ 2024 Dues Payment — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com/KHCC-EZ-2024-Dues-Payment)

Over **225** Members have already paid their dues for 2024, so please **disregard this notice if you are already paid** for 2024. The e-mail you were sent will indicate whether you are paid for 2024 or not.

You can review your current membership listing using this link [KH Members](#).
If the last column by your name says **3**, then you are paid for 2023. If it shows **34**, you are also paid for 2024.

The *membership* listing is password protected and is for our members only; use the current 2023 password which I sent out in our monthly e-mail.

I would like to thank all our members for telling their friends & paddlers about the KHCC. We now have **365** paid family memberships.

Tell any interested paddlers that they should use this application form to join the club for 2024. [On-Line Registration Form](#) Payment options will be displayed.

**Keel-hauler's Meeting
August 12, 2023, at Benner Meadows
Minutes by Jennifer Hughes**

Benner Meadows Run, 315 Nelson Rd, Farmington, PA 15437

Meeting called to order @ 6:30pm

Reading of previous minutes

Reports of Committee-

- \$100 spent towards "The Onion Bag Project"
- Volunteer requested to assist Jackie with conservation, Kristen Walters Maag agreed
- Discussed helping with river cleanup
- Training budget was requested to be reviewed Dave Harris and Seth Anderson asking for it to be increased.
- Training Coordinator stepping down. Mark Spang will need to be replaced.

- Nomination for Treasurer made. Andi Morgan nominated Anthony Lazzaro. Tim Hughes second the nomination.
- Trustee was nominated to be Kelly Miller.
- Discussion the President seat will need elected to someone new.
- Next year suggested for picnic to be at Tall Oaks
- Club "Fall Colors" trip to be October 12 at Ohiopyle. Agreed no Middle Yough run this year due to water levels.

Meeting closed – Brian Smart
Second- Mike Gillam





A full set of yearbooks was donated to the club by John Kobak.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of September 30, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,321.45

CD 1077 \$2,322.03

CD'S (2) \$4,643.48

Checking \$9,568.73

Total \$14,212.21

**Cuyahoga River Update
By Ted Moore**

As all of us who paddle the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Valley National Park already know, this has been an exceptional year for access improvement. First was the widened, hard-surfaced path to the water at Lock 29. That was followed just a few weeks ago by the completion of the transformed Boston Store Trailhead at mile 26.6. Landscaped native stone steps, an enlarged beach, an adjacent picnic area, and other improvements, with more to come, have made this stretch, popular with newer boaters and others who want a quick, local, scenic, and, at higher flows, fun paddle, that much more enjoyable.

Recently, I spent some time with Ryan Ainger, the River Program Manager at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, to talk about how all this came to be.

Disclosure: I am a volunteer with the National Park Service and a member of CVNP'S River Patrol. Ryan supervises me and all other River Patrol volunteers.

Ted Moore (TM):

Let's start with some history, Ryan. How did all this come to be?

Ryan Ainger (RA):

Lock 29 improvements were part of a plan that includes improvements to all access. Lock 39 is the next and last site [that will be improved as a component of this plan]. The Boston Access and Circulation Plan is separate [from that].

The idea was to open both sides of the river and create a better visitor experience. Since then, the new Visitor Center and parking lot have been built, the RV lot across Riverview Road was created, the pedestrian bridge opened, staff offices were completed, the access point was designed and built, and the area was landscaped with native materials and plants. The goal was to increase visitor capacity, create safer pedestrian access from the west side of the river to the Towpath and the trails beyond, and, most important to the Keelhaulers, probably, create easier and safer river access and space for equipment loading and unloading.

TM

Let's talk about that a little more. There have been questions from the members about the loading and unloading area.

RA

At this point, we're left with the old Boston lot, the one with the artwork on it. The southwest corner of that lot is exposed to erosion and contains a number of nonnatural features. That area is showing evidence of slumping. The mural and the way that lot is set up now is temporary. It was closed off because of those problems and because the pedestrian bridge was opening. The next initiative is to tear out the old parking lot and provide a better connection to the towpath. We also want to add amenities such as more space for both drop-offs and pickups. The new parking area on Stanford Road should also take pressure off of the Visitor Center and trailhead overflow lots.

Planning for all of this, then building it, as is everything in this park, is subject to the interests and priorities of other area landowners. The State [of Ohio], the Village [of Peninsula], Summit Metroparks, and private landowners all have to be taken into consideration. Boston is the most extensively used area of the Park. It's multiuse.

We are trying to safely integrate multiple [recreational and visitor experience] opportunities while keeping in mind the unique needs of all recreation platforms to provide the best possible experience. [We seek to] reduce conflicts while giving everyone – river users, hikers, bicyclists, people riding the train, and all others – the best experience possible.

TM

Why was the access point here at Boston designed the way it was?

RA

Park staff and other NPS employees were involved from the beginning. I remember the first time we all stood on this side of the river and looked down at the proposed new access point. We considered all the alternatives, including a ramp with switchbacks. We also considered

multiple other locations in the Boston area, but the current location offered the best river eddy and the space needed for drop off. This was also our quickest solution to provide safe and sustainable access, and [it satisfied our objective to] do our best to match the river launch to the same degree of challenge as the section of river you will be using to set the expectation.

The Park Service has guidelines about how structures such as the new access point are to be designed. The area was already "disturbed", as we put it, so we had fewer restrictions than if we were trying to build in an undisturbed area. Despite that, we decided there wasn't enough space to build a ramp that would meet Park Service accessibility and safety standards. It would have been too steep. We also wanted to cut down as few trees as possible and work with the existing beach in compliance with NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act of 1970] requirements.

It's also important to remember that CVNP manages its stretch of the river differently [than the governing bodies of other reaches]. We want to give river users in the Park a more primitive feel, to give them as much of a sense of adventure and remoteness as possible. We want to match the experience of those who use the river inside the Park to the other experiences they have here, such as on the hiking trails. This is different from the priorities of the entities that govern the other parts of the river, but it controls what we do inside the Park. Add all that up, and that's why the access point with designed the way it was.

TM

What other information would you like to pass along to the members?

RA

Good access to the water invites people to experience the river however they want. They can paddle it, fish on the banks, enjoy the sights, or whatever else they like safely while still, hopefully, getting the feel that they are on an adventure. All we ask of our visitors is that they realize that we're all in the park for the same reasons, and to give each other grace.

We have more ideas for river access in the future that are very exciting. [\[https://www.nps.gov/cuva/getinvolved/planning.htm\]](https://www.nps.gov/cuva/getinvolved/planning.htm) All of these involve more planning, engaging other stakeholders, funding, establishing priorities, and obtaining approvals. However, CVNP, with community input, is committed to making this a river-centric Park. It's the river that defines CVNP. We want to distinguish the experience of river users as much as we can while inviting everyone to use the river safely and as good stewards of the resource. It's an interesting challenge that all of us are committed to meeting.

Finally, it's important to note our Community Access Plan. The completed and finalized edition will be released soon. This plan offers different management practices based on

number of river users (not just paddlers but anyone who is enjoying the river). The CAP also has a number of management strategies for other areas of the park, not just river related. It will shape how CVNP manages resources for many years to come.

**Cuyahoga River Cleanup
October 28, 2023
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Mayor Don Walters is pleased to announce the return of the City of Cuyahoga Falls' River-City Cleanup Series on Saturday, September 23, at River Front Park in celebration of National Public Lands Day and Saturday, October 28, at Mud Brook Greenway Trail from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The River-City Cleanup Series is part of ongoing efforts to Improve water quality, promote environmental sustainability, enhance the recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors, and provide environmental education. The cleanups are co-hosted with Summit Soil and Water Conservation District, Rubber City Reuse, Shelf Life, and Stonewall Garden.

In addition, Shelf Life will hold a gardening/plant book swap at each cleanup. All are encouraged to bring unused books on these topics. Attendees will be able to win prizes from the hosts on the day of the cleanup, and if they attend both cleanups, they will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the series.

For more information, please contact bpulley@cityofcf.com. **To register for the cleanups, please visit <https://www.cityofcf.com/cleanups>.**

<https://www.cityofcf.com/news/mayor-don-walters-announces-fall-river-city-cleanup-series?fbclid=IwAR0zYwb92VMqBG06Mc5nINefUjVPiRLLNx1tVyOfjd-rpypHDSfooKvpu8Y>

**Lower Yough Fall Colors Paddling Trip
October 20th – October 22nd
From Annaleigh Koch**

We're going to be camping at Tall Oaks, arriving Friday evening, and this will be a strictly Lower Yough trip due to no dam release that weekend. Our safety team paddling on Saturday and Sunday includes Charles Mcdo, Cliff Wire, Michael Duvall, and Aaron Salzano on Sunday. Our other possible safety boaters include Chris Curley, Steve Blades, and Matt Fredmonsky.

Camping will be at Tall Oaks Campground.

<https://www.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=Tall+Oaks+Campground>

The Club has prepaid for camping and a pavilion. Please prepay with the club at this link: [Falls Color Camping @ Tall Oaks — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#) \$10 per night, per person.

Reach out with any questions or to add your name to the trip.
(330)-289-5250 or ajk4259@gmail.com.

Annaleigh

CSU Open Paddle Dates From Jacki Zevenbergen

Open paddle in our pool is the perfect place to try or practice stand up paddleboarding and/or kayaking! CSU students join for free! All equipment is included. Our certified paddling instructors will be there to help you hone your paddling skills, learn some new ones, or just have some fun on the water!

*****PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! CLASSES WITH 0 PEOPLE ENROLLED 1 HOUR PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED START WILL BE CANCELLED.***

COST:

Students: FREE

Members: \$5.00

Non-Members: \$7.00

DATES AND TIMES:

October 13th 7:30pm-9:00pm

October 28th 1:00pm-3:00pm

November 10th 7:30pm-9:00pm

November 14th 7:30pm-9:00pm

Download the [CSU Rec Member Connect app](#), go to “Programs”, select the “Adventure Recreation” category and register for the date you wish to attend.

<https://csurec.com/programs/adventure-rec-trips-workshops/>

Join the GLEAMS Opportunity From Jacki Zevenbergen



GREAT LAKES EDUCATORS OF
AQUATIC AND MARINE SCIENCE

To support and collaborate with diverse groups of Great Lakes educators, stakeholders, and community members to foster Great Lakes literacy and stewardship.

Hello GLEAMS Members,

Save the date for the 2nd annual GLEAMS Coastal Cleanup event! This year, the month-long celebration will take place from September 7th-October 7th. We'll be using the Clean Swell app to log and track data. This app will allow for everyone to take part in a cleanup either with a group at a scheduled event, or on your own at your convenience, or both! There will be a virtual Clean Swell training the evening before the cleanup month kicks off, on Wednesday, September 6th. Be on the lookout for that invite and virtual link. The virtual training will also be recorded and disseminated to cleanup hosts, for those that cannot make the live training.

Whether you'd like to host a group clean-up, or if you're just cleaning up an area on your own, here is a link to a Google Form that you can add the details to - <https://forms.gle/brgpcct7eTEpSybA>. We'd love to know in advance how many people plan on participating throughout the month, as well as allow for people to connect with other local cleanups.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to team up with the Great Lakes community and make our watershed more beautiful and litter-free. Once the month-long cleaning extravaganza wraps up, there will be a virtual share-out of the data so we can see what was accomplished, and celebrations will be in order.

Thanks! Matt Debelak, GLEAMS Coastal Cleanup Coordinator

**Kayaking Injury Prevention Clinic
From Nick Anderson**

Kayaking Injury Prevention Clinic



**Injury
Risk
Reduction**



**Paddle
Technique**



**Strength +
Conditioning +
Recovery**

Date: Saturday November 18th

Time: TBD

Location: 19970 Ingersoll Dr. Rocky River, OH 44116

Brought to you by:

41 NORTH
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paragon
HEALTH + FITNESS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(716) 969-7437
PinPointPT1@gmail.com

Scan and
Register Here:



Roll Sessions Update

Visit our website for up-to-date roll session information:

[Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://keelhauler.com)

Need help?

The Keel-haulers Club has a **roll instructor** that will work with students on learning the kayak roll at Akron University on Tuesday nights from 8-10pm. If you are interested in this service, **you must email us** at clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com and we will work to get him there to work with you personally. We request that you are or become an active paid club member to take advantage of this service.

Keel-hauler Trip Planning [Calendar of Events on our website](#)

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#)

Tuesday, October 3

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Tuesday, October 10

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Tuesday, October 17

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Wednesday, October 18

6:30pm Keel-Hauler's October Meeting 2023

Friday, October 20-Sunday, October 22

6:00pm Yough Falls Fall Colors Trip

Tuesday, October 24

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Saturday, October 28

8:00am Lord of the Fork (Russell Fork) Race

Tuesday, October 31

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

2023 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, 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.com.

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, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!

The deadline for the **November 2023** issue of the newsletter is **10/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubagh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews

October 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news



NOVEMBER, 2023



The Keel-hauler Annual Christmas Party



When: Sat, December 16, 5pm – 9pm

Where: Hines Hill Conference Center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park
1403 W Hines Hill Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264 ([map](#))

Now that we're coming to the end of another year, it is time for the club Christmas Party and December meeting. We are excited to announce we are meeting once again at the beautiful Hines Hill Conference Center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Logistics: Doors open at 5:00pm. We will start the meeting promptly at 5:30pm, then Dinner will take place after the meeting at 6:30pm. We must be finished by 9:00pm.

Potluck: Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name. The club will supply beverages, plates, and plastic ware.

F-L: Main dish or Casserole

A-E: Salad or Vegetable

S-Z: Dessert or Fruit

M-R: Bread or Appetizer

Please keep in mind that adhesives, tacks, nails, or anything which may damage the historic buildings or endanger the natural resources of the park are prohibited. All setup and cleanup must be done within the contracted time period - spaces will not be available before or after the scheduled time.

Any questions or concerns please contact: clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

**2024 Membership Dues are Overdue
By John Kobak-Membership Chairman**

All club memberships have ended on October 1st for our 2023 membership year.

The e-mail you got will indicate whether you are paid for 2024 or not.

Our club now has over 365 family memberships from 19 states.

About 1/3 of you still haven't renewed your 2024 membership yet.

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

Don't miss out on all the club benefits like free/discounted indoor pool sessions and discounted advanced WW safety training.

Use this link to pay your 2024 Dues or pay for 2024 & 2025 and save \$4.00

<https://www.keelhauler.com/ezpay24b>

You can review your current membership listing using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **3**, then you are only paid for 2023. If it shows **4**, you are paid for 2024. If it shows **45** you are paid for 2025 as well.

The *membership* listing is password protected and is for our members only; use the current 2023 password which I sent out in our monthly e-mail.

OR

If you still want to mail a check or use your banks Bill Payer,

Please send **\$20** for your **2024 Membership Dues** or **\$36** for **2024-25 dues**

To:

**Keel Haulers Canoe Club
701 Forrest Ave
Geneva, IL 60134-3039**

Also, all WW paddlers should **join AW**, the one organization that fights to remove dams and provides us with river access and existing dam scheduled water releases. Our club members can get a \$10 discount.

Pick \$25.00 – Affiliate Club Member from this link: [Join American Whitewater](#)

Thanks

John Kobak – Membership Chairman

**Keel-hauler's Meeting
October 18, 2023, Virtual Meeting
Minutes by Jennifer Hughes**

Meeting called to order @ 6:40pm

- Brian Smart
- Mike Gillam

Members in attendance -

Brian Smart	George Davis	Tim Hughes
Michael Duval	Jim Ridge	Matt Pasqual
Francis Hoven	Mike Gillam	Josh Scott
Chris Guthrie	Ted Moore	Debbie Schrinker
Jackie Zevenbergen	Kelly Miller	Kristen Spinetti
Anthony Lazzaro	Jennifer Hughes	Nick Anderson
John Kobak	Chloe Shepard	

Standard Order of Business

Change of officers for Treasurer & Trustee, Kelly Miller is current Treasurer

- Anthony Lazzaro was nominated as new Treasurer by Brian Smart. Motion was heard and seconded by Ted Moore and supported by Mike Gillam, Jackie Zevenbergen, Tim Hughes and Jennifer Hughes
- Anthony Lazzaro will take the position of Treasurer unchallenged.
- Kelly Miller was nominated and elected as Trustee for 2024-2026

Budget

- Slip Fest donation agreed to stay at \$100.00
 - Meeting Hall budget was discussed at the request of John Kobak; no changes were made to budget for meeting hall.
 - Conservation Budget was discussed to move \$500.00 to conservation from donation to Save Slippery Rock to change the conservation budget to \$1100.00
- Motioned by Mike Gillam
Seconded by Jackie Zevenbergen

Individual reports

- Volunteers for Slip Fest 2024 need to begin to be recruited; looking for someone to take charge of vendors and Keel-Hauler tent
- Mark Spang will no longer be organizing training; Annaleigh Koch will take over
- Conservation is now being organized by Jackie Zevenbergen, Kristen Maag, and Annaleigh Koch
- Josh Scott will now lead Sea kayak ; ACA Level III Coastal Instructor
- Meeting coordinators are now Jeremiah Richards, Chris Guthrie, and Brian Smart
- Christmas Party details to be released by November 1, 2023
(Jackie mentioned to discuss a different location for future Christmas parties)
- John Kobak reminded the importance of having dues paid and recruiting new members
- Membership currently at 361 families

- Brian encouraged additional training for club members to include H2O, Wilderness First Aid, Swiftwater Rescue training and general training exercises
- Pool sessions have started – Akron, Perry, and Cuyahoga Natatorium
- Slip Fest 2024; permits are preapproved by the park, encouraging to get permit for 2 days for weather; Breakneck already on board to participate; limited parking on Eckert Bridge

Meeting called to a close @ 8:45
pm Motioned by Mike Gillam
Seconded by Tim Hughes

2024 Budget approved at meeting on 10/18/2023:

	2024 Budget
ASSETS	
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$9,568.73
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$4,643.48 without end of Sept interest
INCOME	
Conservation	\$150.00
Dues	\$6,400.00
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,650.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,862.21
LIABILITIES	
EXPENSE	
Conservation Donations	\$5,250.00
Access Donations*	\$600.00
Internet Domain	\$50.00
Webpage	\$300.00
Marketing	\$600.00
Education/Training/Outreach	\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$750.00
Meeting Hall	\$1,200.00
Postage and Supply	\$50.00
Refreshments	\$600.00
Yearbook Expense	\$0.00
Pool Sessions	\$1,500.00
Slippery Rock Race	\$100.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$12,000.00
OVERALL END of 2024 TOTAL	\$8,862.21
DONATIONS:	
American Whitewater	\$1,500.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$1,000.00

Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00
American Rivers	\$300.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00
River Network	\$100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00
Portage Park Dist.	\$100.00
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$600.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00
Kent Tannery Park	\$100.00
Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund (SSRC)	\$0
Additional Conservation	\$1100.00
TOTAL	\$5,850.00

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
Bank Balance as of October 31, 2023, and
End of Year Actuals as of September 30, 2023
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,322.15

CD 1077 \$2,322.23

CD'S (2) \$4,644.38

Checking \$9,390.24

Total \$14,034.62

End of Year October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023 Treasurer's Report

	2023 Budget	2023 Actuals
ASSETS		
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$11,248.57	\$11,248.57
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$4,639.35	\$4,639.35
INCOME		
Conservation	\$150.00	\$172.26
Dues	\$7,000.00	\$6,746.05
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$100.00	\$43.27
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,350.00	\$6,961.58
TOTAL ASSETS	\$21,284.05	\$22,849.50

LIABILITIES		
EXPENSE		
Conservation Donations	\$5,150.00	\$4,123.83
Access Donations*	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
Internet Domain	\$38.00	\$20.00
Webpage	\$300.00	\$271.99
Marketing	\$600.00	\$587.18
Education/Training/Outreach	\$1,000.00	\$239.27
Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$750.00
Meeting Hall	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Postage and Supply	\$50.00	\$37.70
Refreshments	\$500.00	\$553.45
Yearbook Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pool Sessions	\$1,300.00	\$1,280.00
Slippery Rock Race	\$0.00	-\$801.52
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$12,038.00	\$8,661.90
OVERALL TOTAL	\$9,246.05	\$14,187.60
DONATIONS:		
American Whitewater	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.00	\$100.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00	\$150.00
American Rivers	\$300.00	\$300.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00	\$300.00
River Network	\$100.00	\$100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00	\$100.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00
Portage Park Dist.	\$100.00	\$100.00
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00	\$100.00
Kent Tannery Park	\$0.00	\$73.83
Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund (SSRC)	\$500.00	\$0.00
Additional Conservation	\$600.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$6,350.00	\$4,723.83

**We have lost the last founding member of the
Keel-hauler's Canoe Club
From John Kobak**

Henry Charles "Hank" Annable Obituary 1929-2023

[Henry Annable Obituary \(1929 - 2023\) - Oberlin, OH - The Morning Journal \(legacy.com\)](#)

Henry "Hank" Charles Annable of Oberlin passed away on October 11, 2023, from complications of prostate cancer at the age of 94. He joins his devoted wife of 47 years, Suzanne (Suzie) Marguerite Annable, who passed away in 2000. Hank was born on June 28, 1929, in Oberlin and was a graduate of Oberlin High School where he was also known as "Herk". Hank attended Michigan State College. Hank was an avid outdoorsman his entire life. He started trapping muskrats as a youth and continued that activity until his late 80s. While in high school he and two friends drove a Model A Ford to Seattle, Washington camping along the way. In early 1949 Hank and two buddies retrofitted an Army six-by-six truck for a wild trip to Alaska. The modern "49ers" completed the 5,000 mile trip in just over a month. The trio's goal was to look for adventure and something new in the Alaska wilderness. The group found work along the way and once they got to Alaska. Hank joined the U.S. Army in 1951 and served proudly in Germany during the Korean War. After his service he met his future wife Suzie James of Lorain, and they married in 1953. Because of Hank's adventurous spirit he took his new bride back to Alaska where he found work in assorted jobs. Two of the couple's 3 children were born in Alaska. Hank and his family moved back to Oberlin in 1957 where he found work as an apprentice carpenter. He became an accomplished carpenter and cabinet maker and worked for the Buildings Department at Oberlin College for 30 years. Examples of Hank's craftsmanship can be found in nearly every building on Oberlin College's campus. Hank was one of the founding members of the Keel-haulers Canoe Club in 1967. The club founded the annual Vermilion River canoe race in 1968 which ran for more than 50 years. Hank competed nearly every year and when he couldn't paddle anymore, he became the official starter for the duration of the race's years. He continued his membership in the club until his death. His love for the outdoors was handed down to his three children who became accomplished boaters. His children have vivid memories of the many river, lake, and wilderness trips they had with Dad. Hank loved to bowl in the winter months

and was a member of many different leagues in the area. He was also an avid supporter of the Cleveland Guardians, Cavs, and Browns. He believed it was important to donate blood and platelets to the Lorain County Blood Bank and did so his entire adult life on a bi-monthly basis. Hank is survived by his son Tom (Chris) Annable of Amherst; daughter Maureen (Jon) Rice of Oberlin and son Chuck (Monica) Annable of Brunswick, Maine; and grandchildren Andrew (Stephanie), Mara (Jon), Nate (Morgan), Sam and Max. He was preceded in death by his wife, Suzie; parents John and Irene (nee Davies) Annable, and brothers, Bernie and Bill Annable. A private burial will take place at Westwood Cemetery in Oberlin. In lieu of flowers, consider donating blood or platelets to your local blood bank in Hank's honor. Visitation will take place at Cowling Funeral Home, 228 S. Main St., Oberlin from 4-7 PM on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Online condolences may be made to www.cowlingfuneralhomeoh.com

Hank Annable
A story by Tom Annable
Reprinted from 2016

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 Annable's, Don Roper, Chuck Singer, and the Linn's.

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 Ohiopyle, 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 & 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.



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

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.

Kayaking Injury Prevention Clinic From Nick Anderson

Announcing Kayaking Injury Prevention Clinic!!

☒ Free to Attend!

Date: Saturday November 18th from 1-3pm

Location: Paragon Health and Fitness [19970 Ingersoll Dr, Rocky River, OH 44116](#)

For Who: Sea, Lake, Whitewater Kayakers/ Paddle Sports Participants

Hosted by: Dr. Nick Anderson PT, DPT with Pin-Point Physical Therapy

Assistance by: 41 Degrees North Coastal Adventures, Nalu Standup Paddle and Surf

Info: This will be a free workshop with light refreshments and giveaways. Dr. Nick Anderson PT, DPT will provide a short presentation about injury prevention topics in paddle sports. Following this will be information provided by 41 Degrees North and Nalu Paddle and Surf for paddle technique advice. To conclude, a short workshop to go over paddling specific exercises to help reduce injury risk and improve performance.

⚠ Limited Spots Available! Deadline is **Nov 4th** to sign up.

Sign up link: https://share.hsforms.com/17i5AlvM0SvSO88_mdXiqvQq2tbq

Email for more info: PinPointPT@gmail.com or Text for more info: 716-969-7437



Kayaking Injury Prevention Clinic

 **Injury Risk Reduction**

 **Paddle Technique**

 **Strength + Conditioning + Recovery**

Date: Saturday November 18th
Time: 1-3pm
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(716) 969-7437
PinPointPT1@gmail.com

Scan and Register Here:



Roll Sessions Update

Visit our website for up-to-date roll session information:

[Roll Sessions, Clinics, and Practice — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](http://keelhauler.com)

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Also, please thoroughly clean all gear and boats, inside and out, including around/under flotation bags. We MUST keep the pool water clean, or we may lose the use of these facilities. Thanks!

CSU Open Paddle Dates From Jacki Zevenbergen

Open paddle in our pool is the perfect place to try or practice stand up paddleboarding and/or kayaking! CSU students join for free! All equipment is included. Our certified paddling instructors will be there to help you hone your paddling skills, learn some new ones, or just have some fun on the water!

*****PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! CLASSES WITH 0 PEOPLE ENROLLED 1 HOUR PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED START WILL BE CANCELLED.***

COST: Students: FREE, Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00

DATES AND TIMES Remaining: November 10th 7:30pm-9:00pm and November 14th 7:30pm-9:00pm

Download the [CSU Rec Member Connect app](#), go to "Programs", select the "Adventure Recreation" category and register for the date you wish to attend.

<https://csurec.com/programs/adventure-rec-trips-workshops/>

Keel-hauler Trip Planning Calendar of Events on our website

Want to plan a trip? Please read the Organizer's Responsibilities then use the "Add Event" button to submit a new event! [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](https://www.keelhauler.com)

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Tuesday, November 14

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

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8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Tuesday, November 28

8:00pm Akron University Open Kayak

Saturday, December 16

5:00pm Keel-Hauler's Xmas Party and Meeting 2023!

2024 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Ted Moore	330-608-9456
Secretary:	Jennifer Hughes	Secy@keelhauler.org
Treasurer:	Anthony Lazzaro	Treasurer@keelhauler.org

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, Westlake, OH 44145

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Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or send a photo for the next newsletter!
The deadline for the **December 2023 issue of the newsletter is **11/23/2023**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews

November 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

DECEMBER, 2023



The Keel-hauler Annual Christmas Party



When: Sat, December 16, 5pm – 9pm

Where: Hines Hill Conference Center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park
1403 W Hines Hill Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264 ([map](#))

Now that we're coming to the end of another year, it is time for the club Christmas Party and December meeting. We are excited to announce we are meeting once again at the beautiful Hines Hill Conference Center in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Logistics: Doors open at 5:00pm. We will start the meeting promptly at 5:30pm, then Dinner will take place after the meeting at 6:30pm. We must be finished by 9:00pm.

Potluck: Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name. The club will supply beverages, plates, and plastic ware.

F-L: Main dish or Casserole

A-E: Salad or Vegetable

S-Z: Dessert or Fruit

M-R: Bread or Appetizer

Please keep in mind that adhesives, tacks, nails, or anything which may damage the historic buildings or endanger the natural resources of the park are prohibited. All setup and cleanup must be done within the contracted time period - spaces will not be available before or after the scheduled time.

Any questions or concerns please contact: clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

**Has Your Club Membership Expired?
By John Kobak-Membership Chairman**

If the e-mail you received with our December 2023 newsletter e-mail says:
"Sorry to see you go. Your club membership expired on 9/30/23"

Then this is your **last newsletter e-mail**, and your member listing has been removed.
We will miss you and you will miss out on our free kayak roll sessions and discounted training classes along with the great trips, friends and kayak teachers. Our signup for next year's classes begins after 1/1/24, but it is for paid-up members only.

You can use any credit card or your Paypal account and renew using the link below.
You also have the option to pay for **two years (2024-25) for only \$36**
Just click to: [Pay 2024 Dues](#) (Your options will be displayed)
OR

If you still want to mail a check or use your bank's Bill Payer,
Please send \$20 for your **2024 Membership Dues** or \$36 for **2024-25 dues**

Please Mail your check to Kelly our membership backup:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club
701 Forrest Ave
Geneva, IL 60134-3039

[John Kobak](#) – Membership Chairman

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
From Anthony Lazzaro**

CD 0402	\$2,322.35
<u>CD 1077</u>	<u>\$2,322.42</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,644.77

<u>Checking</u>	<u>\$8,050.94</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$12,695.71</u>

Adirondack Canoe Symposium, 2023

By Judi and Larry Fordyce

Larry and I discovered solo canoeing a little over a year ago, and for almost that same amount of time, we have been gradually diving deeper and deeper into FreeStyle canoeing. We never really intended to get into FreeStyle per se, it just sort of happened. Our most recent FreeStyle event was the 2023 Adirondack Canoe Symposium at Paul Smiths College, and this event did not disappoint!

The instruction was superb, as always. Not only are the instructors knowledgeable and patient, but we really enjoy the exposure to a different instructor each day. And as Larry has said, the more we attend these classes the more we realize what we still have to learn. For example, I thought I knew how to do an effective forward stroke, but a forward stroke class showed me I still had things to learn. It is very satisfying and rewarding as the instructors/coaches continue to refine our technique.



Many canoes on the lake at Wooden Canoe Heritage Association's Annual Assembly

This year this symposium went way beyond the usual offering, because it was held in conjunction with the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association Annual Assembly. If you have not yet attended, we very highly recommend it.

Exposure to the collection of classic wooden canoe heritage was extraordinary. Get there early to see as much as you can. Lovely wooden canoes, all kinds of them! Enlightening workshops – staining wood to match when repairing; caning a canoe seat; making your own wooden paddle; and much more. And then there is the spectacular evening parade of wooden boats called the “paddle by”.



And more canoes on Church Pond, where instruction is held

The instructional paddling venue at Church Pond was glorious! Clean, clear, tannic mountain water, surrounded by breathtaking trees, and a glorious bog at the far north end. Be sure to sign up for the bog course from Molly and see sundews and pitcher plants, plus much more. The customary Interpretive FreeStyle performance on a delightful Saturday evening was particularly enjoyable at this event. Our instructors outdid themselves with new performances that demonstrated how to execute the strokes we had been working on with precision and grace. We observed how those strokes can be combined into a fluid routine, set to music. It was also encouraging to see some of our budding fellow students take the water, and progress to this next level of being a performer.





Katrin and Hans-Georg Wagner, from Germany, doing an excellent paired solo routine

We also were treated to performance from a couple from the very active European FreeStyle community. Katrin and Hans-George Wagner, from Germany, made the long trip "across the pond" and displayed a style of performance that used the same stokes but had a decidedly different rhythm and feel. We particularly enjoyed watching their performance of two solo canoes dancing side by side in very tight proximity, but never actually touching. Exquisite!



Community Paddle, led by the Wagners!

At the end of the evening the Wagner's led a small group of volunteer canoeists in a "European Community Paddle". The best way we can describe it is synchronized canoe involving side by side maneuvers and moving in and out of a circle. They definitely showed us even more ideas of things to do in our little boats.

As a final thought we highly recommend this event for the camaraderie with other students as well as instructors. It is fun and entertaining to hear what brought others to this event, what type of paddling they had done previously, and where they plan to go from here. People who enjoy "messing around in little boats", as mentioned in "Wind in the Willows".

Even if you are not interested in Interpretive FreeStyle per se, learning how to better control a canoe can be wonderfully rewarding. Warning! You just might get sucked into FreeStyle, like we have, and many others before us have as well.



Molly Gurien, ACS organizer. Thanks, Molly!

Learning to Kayak on the Cuyahoga By Wendy Hess

I've lived near the twisty, rugged section of the Cuyahoga River that runs through the CVNP for over 30 years (longer than the Park itself has existed,) but until a few years ago, never gave it much thought. I drove over or past the river daily, walked or biked next to it, but all I ever thought of it was "oh, that's pretty"--that is, if I thought about it at all.

That changed, though, in mid-2020. That was preceded by a rough year of family illness and loss, and the only real respite I ever got from steeping in that stress was during time spent outdoors; hiking, skiing and bicycling always seemed to chase away the tension. By June, with

these losses still so fresh and Covid raging as well, I really wanted some new outdoor diversion to help take my mind off the earlier stress, coupled with the new craziness of the pandemic.



Wendy on the Middle Yough in 2022

I didn't realize that the solution was right within our garage. My husband Julius and I had kayaks that had been sitting there for several years, unused other than a few trips to Hinckley Lake, and they might have remained there if not for chance. One day, we watched some people launch their kayaks from a river access point in Peninsula, and we both agreed that this moving water looked like it could be kind of fun. We wondered if we too could tackle that daunting-looking portion of the river with our recreational kayaks (a term we didn't know at the time,) cheap paddles and next to no skills. Without too much thought, my husband--always the bolder of us--decided we should try it. I had doubts but agreed to go along.

As soon as we put in for the first time, it was clear this was nothing like the flatwater we'd paddled earlier. The put-in area was daunting (why was it so full of jagged rocks?) and once in the water, we found our first Cuyahoga ride on low water equal parts intimidating--large rocks to avoid, tight squeezes to navigate, and challenging terrain—and exhilarating. Some of the shallow areas demanded careful decision making—go left, go right or just stay in the center? Each choice would determine whether our kayaks would move freely or get stuck. By the time we reached our pull-out point at Boston, we'd gone through several sections of rapids and an equal number of spots where we had to push our way out of shallows or off rocks. The ride was not trouble-free, but it was fun.



Wendy and Julius on The Cuyahoga in 2023

It also proved addictive. That first ride got us both hooked, and after my husband loaned his kayak to our younger son Ted, he got hooked as well--so hooked that when a friend and I signed up for a whitewater class in Ohiopyle, Ted joined us. Do you have any idea just how motivated a 24-year old male has to be to willingly spend an entire weekend with two older women, especially when one of them is his mother? It was an exciting weekend where we learned a lot, and by the end, I was able to get down the Middle Yough with questionable form, but at least no swims. Ted, however, picked up paddling a WW boat so quickly that the instructor invited him to paddle the Loop after the first day of class.



On the boof line, Cucumber Rapids

Since then, the whole family has become involved with kayaking to different degrees. My husband--the person who had to talk me into trying Lock 29--enjoys getting out on the Cuyahoga and might get in 5 or 6 runs a season on different stretches of the River, though given his insistence of relaxing with his feet up on boat, his occasional swims are not a surprise (fortunately, he always wears his PFD.) I try to get out as often as I can during the warmer months, and got myself a whitewater inflatable that I love, though I've learned the hard way that when the Cuyahoga is low, my old rec boat still works better (my Sea Eagle sticks to rocks like glue.) I expect I'll never paddle above a class 2 and don't mind, since that works just fine for me. As for Ted, he's far surpassed both of us, becoming a serious paddler, especially since moving to Pittsburgh. He's found some great mentors in the Three Rivers Club and has continued to progress. Earlier this year, he took on his first class 4s, did the Valley Falls Waterfall Clinic and paddled the Lower Gauley for the first time. However, he's still happy to paddle the Cuyahoga when he's in town and is kind enough to join us when we paddle the Middle Yough as a family each summer.



Family ride down the Middle Yough in 2023

So, what started with a search for diversion during a difficult time has led to this family hobby that looks very different for each one of us. For my husband, it's something nice to do now and then. For me it's something I love during the warmer months and always leave wanting more, while regretting that I didn't know about this sport 20 years earlier. For Ted, it's become a lifestyle and a challenge. And now, when I drive by the river, instead of thinking "that's pretty," it inspires a range of thoughts, from "Is the level good?" and "I wonder what it would be like to run it today?" to "I really want to be out there now." I know to many it's just a "starter river," but paddling it has given me a new appreciation for this river, my longtime neighbor the Cuyahoga.



Ted at the Valley Falls Waterfall Clinic in 2023

Roll Sessions Update

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Keel-Hauler Kanews

December 2023

Kelly Miller, Editor

