

KEELHAULER'S KANNEWS JUNE, 2008



Our Next Club Meeting will be held
Tuesday, June 10th, at 7:30 PM
at the **Hinckley Lake Boathouse**.

[Map to Hinckley Lake Boathouse](#)

Program: Free Style Clinic

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the lake, kayaks can try roll practice. Come anytime around 6pm. The meeting will be held at dusk.

Additionally, there will be a Freestyle Canoe Clinic taught by Elaine and Bob Mravetz.

(330) 239-1725 or [e-mail Mravetz](#)

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

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES May, 2008

Visitors/ new members: Augusto who joined at the last meeting brought his wife Melanie to her first meeting.

Terry Markoff gave the Treasurer's report. KHCC has a balance of \$5511.06 and also three CD's with balances ranging from \$2100 to \$2500. The club is up to date on all bills.

Program: The CPR workshop had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control that made our instructor unavailable. The last minute replacement was the video Hotel Charlie 2 - River of Doubt. It features kayaking in Columbia, Costa Rica, India and Mexico.

Trip Reports: Jim Hunt spoke about the Cheat race. The race day level was 3.5 feet. Unfortunately the KHCC team lost to TRPC again! Evidently the KHCC race team was also the KHCC swim team. With the exception of Cliff Wire.

Vic Case reported on his trip on the Little Miami River from Millford to

the Ohio River. Vic reports that the run is a scenic class II.

Joe Marks organized a mammoth trip on the Slip May 10th which grew to 25 to 30 people. A fun day on the river with a large number of newer boaters on the lower section. Sunday the 11th, Joe Marks, Gordon Lorenson, John Yaro, Pat G, Bill and Analise Leyton ran the Little Sandy into the Upper Big Sandy and had a great day with a very good water level.

Chuck Singer announced that he will organize a flatwater mystery trip on June 8th in NE Ohio. Contact Chuck if interested.

Instruction: Terry Markoff reports that Fundamentals of Kayaking and Whitewater 1 will be coming up soon. Check the web site for specifics.

Jim Hunt will be stepping down as refreshment chair for the club meetings. Thanks to Jim and Patty for their service. **Any volunteers?**

Jim will be spending his summer in Canada again working with a youth education group and will be leading a new trip in Saskatchewan.

Judy Cleary will be passing out KHCC information at River Day in Kent. Ed Charlton reported that he received an e-mail from Mike Barenti about his new book describing his new book *Nine Hundred Miles from Idaho's Mountains to the Pacific Ocean*. <http://mikebarenti.com>.

SYOTR, Pat

This "mass" e-mail is being reproduced without permission, but due to the importance to our group and the request for comments from interested parties, I didn't think American Whitewater would mind.....

Sincerely, Kelly

Coal Mine Proposed Near Lower Yough (PA)

A mining company is proposing a mine on a 588 acre tract of forest land near the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. The proposed mine would be within hearing range and likely within sight of



Ohiopyle State Park, the Craelicks Rocks climbing area, Morgan Run, and the Allegheny Highlands Bicycle Trail which follows the Lower Yough. The mining operations would divert water from Morgan Run and Johnson Run and would deliver mining wastes into 7 sediment ponds and 5 treatment facilities; these will discharge into 5 unnamed tributaries of the Youghiogheny River. Given water's tendency to flow downhill this will result in a new source of mine discharge into the Youghiogheny River.

Anyone familiar with Pennsylvania, Ohio, and western Maryland knows how incredibly important the Youghiogheny River and Ohiopyle State Park are to the vitality of the region. Tens of thousands of paddlers, hikers, bikers, swimmers, and climbers all flock to the area to experience the relatively intact ecosystem and great recreational opportunities. Opposition to the mine has begun in earnest, as the PA Department of Environmental Protection considers a permit application that if granted would allow the mining to occur.

You can gain more insight by reading the April 13th [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) article.

Paddlers with photos and descriptions of Morgan Run are encouraged to add them to the AW site or send them to [Kevin Colburn](#), National Stewardship Director.

Paddlers that are familiar with the Ohiopyle State Park area are encouraged to submit written comments via mail or email to the State of PA. You can read [talking points](#) developed by the Mountain Watershed Association. Comment letters should be submitted by May 15th, 2008. Letters should reference the "Curry Mine - NPDES permit PA No. 0251305" and be addressed to:

[Mike Gardener](#), Professional Geologist
Greensburg District Mining Office
Armbrust Professional Center
8205 Route 819
Greensburg, PA 15601

Annual Rescue Weekend

by Rob Hammond

The annual Rescue Weekend is coming up June 28-29. This is a joint volunteer effort between the TRPC and Keel Hauler Canoe Clubs at McConnell's Mill State Park on Slippery Rock Creek. This weekend is designed for beginning to experienced boaters, with something for everyone to learn or to hone your skills.

Saturday will be the rescue clinic; we will practice basic rescue skills on moving water and dry land. There will be several stations that participants will rotate through, learning different skills at each station. From first aid or how to rescue your buddy stuck in an undercut rock, deal with a strainer, to walking in moving water. In the evening there will be a pot luck dinner and campfire at Cheeseman's campground.

On Sunday we will set up realistic rescue scenarios where your team will compete against other teams using various rescue skills. The rodeo is a lot of fun, and great practice. It will also show you how hard a rescue can be when you are under stress and are thinking on your feet, as well as seeing the challenge of effectively deploying your rescue team!

If you are a new boater, the Saturday clinic is definitely for you. As well, the rodeo may also be for you, because, it builds on the things learned at the clinic. If you don't want to compete, stay to watch or help, it is a lot of fun and very insightful. If you are an experienced boater, the review at the clinic is good. When is the last time you practiced throwing that throw bag? If you were one of the guys I saw recently on the river trying to get a throw bag to a boater stuck on a rock, you need to come! If you haven't recently thrown that bag, you definitely need to come! Also, we will have some new things on Wilderness First Responder topics.

The fee for the clinic or rodeo is \$21 for TRPC and Keel Hauler club members, and \$25 for non- members. Additional discounts are available for pre-registration, ACA members and attending both the clinic and rodeo. See the Keel Hauler website for more information and application for details: www.keelhauler.org.

We will be camping at Cheeseman's near the Eckert road bridge takeout. The pot luck dinner will be there on Saturday night starting around 6:30 p.m. Bring a main dish to share, or a \$5 donation and some soda pop or chips/dip. We will have some burgers for those who would rather donate then experiment on us with their culinary skills. Registration is 9 to 9:30 a.m. both days. If you don't have a team, be at the campfire after the potluck. After a few beers, some tedious bragging, and incessant haranguing about deeds past, it is the perfect environment for forming teams. It works every year!

I think a lot of us are cutting back on driving this year with the over the top gas prices. Stay close to home and join us at the Slip this year. If you are coming to the weekend, bring lunch, sunscreen, helmet, PFD, drinking water and dress for spending time immersed in the river.

Annual Rescue Rodeo by Matt Muir & Rob Hammond

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

We are looking for 5-8 teams. That should provide lots of amusement, instruction and enlightenment for the day.

What's this about?

It's a team competition. Teams of four paddlers get together and run through a series of events. Some are timed; others are judged. The events include a Rescue Rope Throw, a Yard Sale Pickup, and a Rescue Scenario. Teams can have open or closed boats, male or female, adult or teenager.

When? Where is it taking place?

Sunday, June 29 (one day after the Swiftwater Rescue clinic), at Maytag Rapid (park at the picnic area uphill from McConnell's Mill); registration is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The event will end in the early afternoon.

What's the entry fee?

The fee is \$25 for the rodeo, with discounts for club members, pre-registering, and for attending the rescue clinic, see the application for details. Check the Keel Hauler website for details: www.keelhauler.org. We have bragging worthy awards for the winning team members.

Who's coordinating this tawdry affair?

The Rescue Rodeo is sponsored by the Keel Haulers and TRPC clubs, with support from the McConnell's Mill State Park.

Anything else I need to know?

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

This sounds great! I want to help out!

I knew you would. We need help with judging, publicity, planning, and safety boating. We also need a couple of "victims" for the rescue scenario. Please call or email Rob Hammond, (216) 287-8580, rob@scd-corp.com or Dave Altman (412) 977-7099, dave@webpa.net.

Have you heard? There is a new Kayak School in town.... Check us out on the web

www.learn2kayak.com

Cleveland Kayak School has whitewater kayak instruction, kayak roll instruction, kayak tours, and corporate and organizational outings in and around North East Ohio.

CheatFest 2008

A New Yorker's Perspective

by Matt Muir

Despite having spent two weekends in a row away from home, playing (skiing and paddling), the Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt allowed me to blow off her birthday and attend CheatFest. (Yes, I know that I'm blessed. But I figure: they were throwing a party down in WV. It's not my fault that she wouldn't attend her own birthday party.) The KHCC Massage Board was fast and furious with flame talk—perhaps less active than some past years, but still impressive—all centered around the longstanding rivalry in the Cheat Canyon Downriver Race between TRPC and the Keelhaulers. I didn't want to tip KHCC's hand by broadcasting that I would be heading into town, ala the Cavalry, to save the day.

I gave my bud, Paul Young, a call, and he was all over it. He'd been down for one CheatFest and one GauleyFest before...and he loves West Virginia. We planned to leave Thursday evening and paddle Friday through Sunday, staying at Kobak's Cabin. The three-day weekend is well worth the 6-7-hour drive, even at today's gas prices.

On the prior weekend, the levels were looking bleak. The Cheat was running in the low 2's. We could hope for a bit of rain, but it was looking like another low-water Cheat race—a long, hard slog for the takeout.

Luckily, some afternoon showers hit during the week, and everything was up. As I saw that the Cheat would be above 3 feet, I chickened out of running it in my WaveHopper; Chuck Singer consented to bring his Mirage down for me to race in, as per usual. Racin' Rob Hammond called my home Thursday evening to ask if I was going to make it. I called him back, and hedged. "I'm...I'm..." I croaked. Rob accused, "You're bailing on us, aren't you?" I replied, "I'm at the Cooper's Rock exit on I-68." Rob enthused, "You da man!," but we knew that.

On Friday, John Kobak, David Herron, and I hit the Big Sandy at 5.8 feet. Paul joined Bud and Mary Jo Chavez and Paul Beard for a run of the Lower Yough at 4.7'—much higher than Paul's previous high. Paul had a great day, topped off by a great stir-fry dinner at Chez Chavez.

I hadn't been on the Sandy in *6 years*, and I was *lovin' it*. I made some concessions to lack of practice, as I walked the first drop of Big Splat—putting in just above the Horseshoe Hole, boofing just next to it and running the final drop. Splat has some serious pucker factor, but if you hit it in the right place, it's *such a sweet boof*. That was a great warmup for the Cheat.

Our teams were: Team 1: Jonathan Bachtel, Cliff Wire, Barry Adams, and I; Team 2: Rob Hammond, Isaac Ludwig, Jim Hunt, and Michael Duvall. The Cheat level was 3.5' at the Bridge. With over 140 racers and high-ish water, this was a recipe for carnage.

We Keel-haulers created more than our share of the carnage. Soon after Decision, I was surprised by a small pourover. Having worked seriously on all the elements of rolling mechanics, I seem to be over my three-year rolling slump (really!). However, I still didn't get it to go at that point. A couple of gentlemanly racers towed my sorry carcass to a large eddy, and then I told them to head downstream. Swimming from the eddy line to shore, with my boat, was still long, exhausting work. Elapsed time: perhaps 10 minutes. Dang. I got back in and passed a bunch of the slow boats.

I got some karma points back somewhere between High Falls and Coliseum as I towed a swimmer to shore. Unfortunately, it was our own Jim Hunt. We had two other swimmers, as it turned out: Rob and Michael. Somewhere after Decision, Michael was getting back into his boat, and he looked across the river...and saw Rob getting into *his* boat. Rob called it a case of "sympathy swims." The Keel-haulers Swim Team was in its glory!

Used to be, the beer at the takeout was local microbrew stuff—tasty, too. This year it was Bud Light. *Bummer*. (I guess the rough economy took out another sponsor.) It was still a great party afterwards, and TRPC deserves credit for beating us by 20 points. When they gave some swag (donated by Jeff Prycl of Rocky Mountain Kayak) as door prizes, I scored a Rocky Mountain Kayak hat. I'd had one before, but the last I'd seen of it, it had been blown off my head by a stiff wind and was swiftly heading downstream to run Niagara Falls without me. (Bummer when my hat has all the fun.)

On the way back to Kobak's, Cliff treated us to some fine driving maneuvers, threading the needle between two deer at 45 mph. For pucker factor, Big Splat got nothing on Cliff's piloting of a van!

A bunch of us headed for the Middle Fork / Tygart on Saturday: Kobak, Cliff, Rob, Michael, David, Pauls Young and Beard, Tom Willis and I. The level was 3.5' at Audra, which was low but quite fun. Paul Young had never seen the MF before, and he was in his glory—proclaiming it his new favorite river. The big water of the Tygart caused him some anxious moments—notably at Hook, where he was unwise enough to follow me.

Hook has two gaping maws of offset holes, preceded by an eddy guarded by a large pourover. Heading for the eddy, I got grabbed by the edge of the pourover. Following me, Paul met the same fate.

The two of us began playing bumper boats bigtime—desperately trying not to bounce into one another, trying not to get sucked back into the hole, trying to stay upright in the chaos. It took some time, but Paul worked free, and then threaded the needle between the two holes without a problem. Soon after, I followed suit.

I don't know if Paul enjoyed the carry along the railroad tracks, but it was a very good day, topped off with the Festival (where he scored a few videos for a buck apiece) and a few turns in Kobak's hot tub.

I was kinda hoping to show Paul the Cheat Canyon, especially if it dropped to ~2.5'. However, it stayed at 2.9'; more importantly, I couldn't figure out decent logistics to get back to Rochester at a decent hour. Plan B would be to introduce him to Slippery Rock—which, just off I-79, is right on our way home. When the Slip was running 0.9' and rising, our decision was made. We didn't need to rush to get out. Before saying our good-byes, we surprised a hermit sleeping in Brent Laubaugh's yet-unfinished "Newport Cottage" neighboring Kobak's. Turned out to be Dave Broer. I wish I had a photo of his scraggly ole face staring out of the unfinished window. *Deliverance* meets Bob Marley, with a touch of Maynard G. Krebs added for good measure.

On the way to the Slip, I had an idea. I'd heard that Gib McGill was back in town after a seven month-stint working as an interpreter in Iraq. We gave him a call, and Merrienne kindly encouraged him to go out and boat.

I hadn't seen Gib in five years. He remarked on how grey I'd gotten. He looks as young as ever (which means, contemporaneous to diatomaceous earth).

Gib hadn't been in his boat in two years. He remembers the shuttle...but the road that we're accustomed to has long since been closed. He and Paul asked my advice. I told them to look for the Upper takeout, but if they couldn't find it, we'd run the Lower too. They got back in half an

hour. We'd be running the Lower. (That would earn them two Ratt Points, but I only told them that good news when we were done.)

At the putin, Paul found out that he'd left his sprayskirt at the takeout. D'oh. What'd Robt. Burns say? "The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley." I don't know what that means, either, but our plans of being home for dinner were not materializing. "It's only a half hour," I suggested, "go get it." Paul hiked back to the Ranger Station parking lot, ready to drive to the takeout, then called down to me. "Can you bring my car keys up to me?"

Half an hour later, they were back. We all had our gear. We stopped at Airport. For old-times' sake, I pursued a couple of old-skool enders. For old-timers' sake, Gib begged off. Paul didn't play in the hole, but he got flipped and got clocked upside the temple by the slopy rock below the hole.

The Slip was actually running 1.3 feet, which is a tasty level indeed. We surfed and ran rapids and eddy-hopped and played and had fun in the sun. The Lower Slip didn't have much in the way of rapids, but it was pretty and it only took an hour. Near the takeout, we encountered a group of boaters. As I pulled into the eddy next to a C-1 paddler, I recognized Steve Ingalls. Geez, I don't think we'd seen each other since the Grand Canyon, 2004. He and Anne were running their first river trip after their respective injuries, and it seemed that they'd had a good day with Terry Markoff, Ernie Anderson, and Dave Toothaker.

As Paul and I were driving home, he saw that we had Gib's paddle. That could be a huge bummer, because who knows when we'd be down that way again? We tried calling his cell, but it wasn't on. Nobody was at his house to take our call.

Luckily, Paul had the KHCC Yearbook on hand (having just joined the club!), and Gib and Merrienne had kept their membership current. So we plugged his address into Paul's GPS and found our way to Chez McGill. Since it's north of the Slip, it turned out not to be much out of our way at all. We left a voice mail, basically berating Gib for his absent-mindedness—but considering the incident with Paul's sprayskirt, and the fact that Michael Duvall found Paul's PFD in his van...well, let's just say that lots of plans gang a-gley this weekend.

Sorry I don't have any great photos of paddlers running gnar; my waterproof camera gave up the ghost at Gauley Fest, and pulling the new digital camera out of the drybag is a bit of a hassle. I got this goofy photo of Gib, me, and Paul taken at McConnell's Mill for your amusement:



That's it for Cheat Fest. See y'all at the Beaver on Labor Day weekend!

Upper Yough Current Summer Schedule

All scheduled releases are from 11am-2pm, except for July 26th which is scheduled from 11am-5pm. The Newsletter Editor takes no responsibility for any changes made by Deep Creek Hydro!

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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					

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		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		

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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						

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This is what happens to members who promise to have their article done, and don't follow through on their promise:



Duncan Campbell due to the fact that he left us "hanging" with his unfinished Ecuador article

June				
5/31, 6/1	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
6/1	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Sabine I ben	440-543-4969
6/6 & 9	Upper Yough (MD) and/or Big Sandy (WV) No UY release on Sat	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
6/7	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
6/7	Yough Lake Cruising Trip (PA)	SK/FW	Gene Baker	440-967-6454
6/7, 8	Esopus Slalom Race run by KCCNY (NY)		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
6/7, 8	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/8	Vermilion or Black River	SK/FW	Chuck Singer	440-949-6681
6/7 to 22	Rivers in Colorado - advanced/intermediate trip, Tentative Trip Plan	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
6/9,11, 16, 18	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM-9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
6/10	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic at Hinckley Lake at 6pm	SK/FW	Elaine & Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/14, 15	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
6/21, 22	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/21, 22	Lower Yough - permits (PA)	23	Ron Tomallo	330-666-7340
6/28, 29	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo (PA)		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
July				
7/4-10	Shawn's Excellent Ocoee Adventure (TN)	25-32	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/5, 6	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Eric Marksz	216-281-1517
7/8,10, 15, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
7/8	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/18-21	Allegheny River (PA)	SK/FW	Karen Dearfield	216-406-9433
7/19	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
7/19, 20	Lower Yough Intro weekend - permits (PA)	23	Fran Hoven	216-671-4931 216-375-3718
7/19, 20	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/19, 20	New River Gorge (WV)	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-4153

2008 Officers:

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

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

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

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

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

For Sale: Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350. Call Kelly at 724-940-9088.
Pittsburgh area, and on the way to the Lower Yough.

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the July issue of the newsletter is 6/21/08. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaquy@aol.com or peetzaquy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
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June, 2008

