

# Keelhauler's Ka-news JUNE, 2014



## Next Club Meeting: Tuesday June 10th

*at Wendy Park  
Near Edgewater Park on Lake Erie*

### Program: No Program

Bring your kayak and paddle behind the breakwall to the mouth of the Cuyahoga and upstream as far as you have time for.  
Or just have a nice after work get-together.

[Map to Wendy Park](#)

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Duvall



First, Lots of good paddling trips have taken place in May. Please try to write a report for the July newsletter. Try to get your story to Kelly by 6/25/14.

Cheat Massocurance, a down river race was the opening event for Cheat Fest. The Cheat down river race had close to 150 boaters begin with a mass start and race approximately ten miles to the

finish. It was a little cool but the river was at a good level so everyone had a good time. Weather for the fest was great except for a few quickly passing showers. All the club members at the festival looked like they were having a good time.

Stonycreek Rendezvous sounded exciting with all the high water this year. Boaters were able to take advantage of some of the tributaries like parts of the Shade.

June starts off with two training classes, Slipper Rock Clinic put on by TRPC and a Swiftwater Rescue Clinic with Charlie Wallbridge organized by Joe Marksz. These classes fill up early so if you didn't make the cutoff be sure to put it on your calendar for next year. There is no such thing as too much training. It looks like there will be a release on the Savage River in Maryland this month. Closer to home there is a trip on the Cuyahoga River and a Portage Lakes paddle. The Lower Yough trip on the 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> have reservations made by the club. See the online schedule for more trips and as always contact the trip organizer for final details.

Our next club meeting will be at Wendy Park. See online details. This year we won't have to fight Captain America to get there.

Be safe and I'll see you on the river,

*Michael*

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## **Keelhaulers Canoe Club Minutes, May 13, 2014** **By Marcia Karchmer for Donna Homberg**

We welcomed guests: Phil and Katie Dudley and members: Ethan and Ashlee Kay.

Financial report: Club Treasury now totaling \$11,595.07.

Minutes were moved and seconded as printed in the newsletter.

Membership Chair: John Kobak, reported 265 members, a few more than last year.

Unfinished business: Buying a Video projector was discussed, but it is too expensive.

New Business: Upcoming trips: No. Branch of the Potomac; Lower Yough: 5/17- 5/18.  
StoneyFest :5/16-5/18; Portage Lakes, Slippery Rock  
and Lower Yough trips at end of May. Slip Clinic 6/7-6/8.

Trip Reports: John Kobak: Big Sandy; Mike Duvall: Southern Rivers trip (6 people went); Cheat Festival week-end (4 trips: Cheat Canyon, Cheat Narrows, Upper Yough, Big Sandy.)  
Motion to adjourn meeting was moved and seconded.

We watched a video on the history or the Cheat River by Rick Gusik and Scott Patton.

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## Lost and Found.....

A coffee mug and men's black gloves were left at the Vermilion River Finish.  
Call Donna at 440 236 8360.

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## Glory Days of Rafting on the Cheat

After watching the video at our last club meeting, I was exploring the internet and came across an interesting story by Charlie Wallbridge about the "Glory Days of Rafting on the Cheat". It's a little long but accurate.

This is the link to: <http://charliewalbridge.com/the-glory-days-of-cheat-river-rafting/>

If you didn't see the video at the meeting and have a fast internet connection try this link to:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lo6Lr5pDUxE>

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## Toledo River Gang Trip Report The Cheat River and Festival 2014 ♦ May 2 – 4, 2014 By Beth Grafing

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Days Paddled</u>
Doug Smith	- Trip Coordinator/Paddler	- Fri, Sat, Sun
Jeremy Bonnough	- Student / Paddler	- Fri, Sat, Sun
Beth Grafing	- Student / Paddler	- Fri, Sat, Sun
Jana Burkett	- Shuttle Runner	- Fri, Sat, Sun
John Garcia	- Keelhauler / Paddler	- Friday
Brent Laubaugh	- Keelhauler / Paddler	- Friday
Alan Watson	- Keelhauler / Paddler	- Friday



## Traveling

Carpooling on Thursday evening allowed TRG members to take advantage of a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday paddle. Returning Sunday evening, attendees were happy to be home after a weekend full of whitewater boating and shower-less camping.

## Weather / Water Levels

Weather was cool and crisp with the chilliest temperatures occurring Saturday morning. Sunshine was sporadic and showers spontaneously occurred Saturday afternoon and into the early evening. For the most part it was a dry and cool weekend. Although the Cheat River boasted a warmer water temperature than Slippery Rock Creek, dry suits / wet suits were still required for a pleasant paddle.

Surprisingly Saturday's festival grounds were not a mudfest - despite the periodic rain. On Sunday, Mother Nature kicked-up the wind a few notches. Amplified by the river's canyon, paddlers felt the 30+ mph gusts of headwind. As hard as we paddled, at times, it still felt as if we were paddling in place.

Date	High	Low	Precip	Wind	Put On Time + Level*	Take Off Time + Level*
Fri., May 2	58°	50°	0.00	W at 11mph Gusts to 20mph	11:15am 12.99 FT, 2620 CFS	1:30pm 12.97 FT, 2590 CFS
Sat., May 3	65°	44°	0.02	SW at 16mph Gusts to 28mph	Noon 12.72 FT, 2280 CFS	3:00pm 12.66 FT, 2210 CFS
Sun., May 4	70°	50°	0.00	WNW at 19mph Gusts to 32mph	9:30am 12.41 FT, 1930 CFS	12:30pm 12.38 FT, 1900 CFS

\*No calculation used for water levels; levels based on USGS's gauge at Albright station.

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?03070260>

## Accommodations

Doug Smith provided camping accommodations- where his West Virginia property allowed for plenty of room for tent camping. BYOTP - that's short for bring your own toilet paper. TRG attendees left indoor plumbing and modern accommodations at home. Who says outhouses are the wave of the past?

## Activities

The Cheat River Festival provided something for everyone: from paddling gear at a discounted price to festival food, local artists and great music. Although the group missed seeing the down river race, we saw a few used boats for sale afterwards - which made us wonder if there were some sore losers.

### **Paddling: Day 1, Friday May 2**

Doug Smith led Jeremy and Beth down the river. Keelhaulers John Garcia, Brent Laubaugh, and Alan Watson joined and provided much needed moral support. The water level flirted with the 3' marker when Jeremy and Beth paddled their Wavesport Fuse boats in the "biggest water" ever experienced.

The first rapid of the day, Decision, proved to be a good warm-up. With moderate holes on the left and right side of the river, this section was wide enough for a paddler to choose his/her own line. TRG members used river-reading skills to select the safest place to paddle. After some rock gardens, random rapids, and flat water, paddlers turned a corner only to find the biggest hole of the day: Big Nasty.

The rolling waves and periodic holes made the approach to Big Nasty challenging. Despite hitting the edge of Big Nasty backwards on river left, Beth survived the grips and didn't roll... until she crossed the eddyline. Jeremy also averted the grips of Big Nasty and finally understood the meaning of "big water".

After taking the left line at Cueball down a small shoot that reminded the paddlers of Frog's Back on the Lower Yough, Doug led Jeremy and Beth through a rapid named: Fist. Nicknamed "flipper" by Doug, the curly-cue wave tossed boats quickly if ran slightly off the line. Jeremy relentlessly hit his roll and disappointed the Keelhaulers - who were hoping to see carnage. No swims day 1.

### **Paddling: Day 2, Saturday May 2**

The second day, Beth won the award for most rolls on the Cheat Canyon. Doug counted more than 14 rolls as Beth paddled her Jackson Star (playboat) in big water for the first time. With Cheat Fest in full-swing, boat traffic was much heavier as kayaks (mostly creek boats), shredders, and rafts littered the river.

Jeremy and Beth had epic memories that day. Jeremy followed Doug and Beth through Big Nasty - and met Big Nasty: face-to-face. Despite the tugging and violent thrashing, Jeremy's PFD, helmet, and lungs all survived. After a few seconds of underwater torture, the notorious big hole kicked Jeremy out. His roll was met with a roar of cheers from spectators and fellow boaters.

Paddling ahead of the pack, Beth hugged the left-hand side of Coliseum too closely and got caught in the eddy at the top of the rapid. After a failed ferry attempt, she rolled-up on top a rock on river left and fell into a hole toward the bottom of Coliseum. No worries though - she was all smiles after making her roll in the swirly water below the rapid. Believe it or not, that stunt paled in comparison to what happened on the next rapid: Pete Morgan. Once again getting too close to the rock in the middle of the river (and not leaning forward), she did stern squirts along the rock before hitting a side-surf on Pete Morgan. Bonus points were awarded for inadvertent style.

### **Paddling: Day 3, Sunday May 4**

Sunday, the river was quiet which allowed Doug, Beth, and Jeremy enough time for several attempts at 360 maneuvers on Typewriter. Jeremy seemed to be at home surfing the wave - it was hard to get him off! He earned style points for the most exquisite rendition of a 360.

As previously mentioned, the wind became a force to be reckoned with as paddlers had several stretches of headwind. Under Doug's suggestion, Jeremy and Beth reluctantly took turns leading the group through rapids. Although Beth didn't realize it, she led the group down Coliseum and Tear Drop. Everyone smiled at the end of High Falls - as everyone hit their line - no rolls necessary. No swims occurred all weekend and no boaters were harmed during the making of this trip report. ♦

## Ragnar Trail Relay @ Big Bear Lake - June 12-15

Not a runner? Volunteer & raise money to protect the Cheat River!

The [Ragnar Trail Appalachians Race](#) is West Virginia newest trail race, covering a 15.7 mile loop through Big Bear Lake camplands in Hazelton, WV. Teams of 4 or 8 will run 24/7 for 120 miles, which takes an average of 22 hours to complete. Check out this [awesome video](#) about the extreme(-ly fun) race.

You don't have to be a hardcore runner to participate: [volunteer with FOC](#) and Ragnar will donate cash in support of our mission! Last year about a dozen volunteers helped with Team Check-In, Campground Assignments, and Parking which raised nearly \$1K in support of FOC's mission to restore, preserve, and promote the Cheat River watershed.

Volunteer shifts are available on Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13 and are about 5 hours. [Sign up today](#) and share this fun and philanthropic opportunity with your friends, co-workers, and students!

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## Memorial Day Weekend Paddle Fest By John Kobak

Lots of Keel-Haulers took advantage of the high water and warm weather over the long Memorial Day weekend.

Peggy & I headed down to our Beaver Creek cabin on Tuesday and found that the Monday rain had brought all the rivers in the area up. Some were even too high for a few days.

By Thursday I was ready to paddle. Dave Herron had come down to sell a kayak to a guy named Steve from Pittsburgh. We decided to meet at the Top Yough which was dropping fast but still had 400 cfs below Muddy Creek. Swallow Falls looked very rocky so Dave and I walked it but Steve ran the normal line. There was some wood blocking the normal route at the rapid above Muddy Creek and I found myself stuck in a small hole.

The rest of the run was good, the boof below Muddy is now open but there is a lot of wood in most of the rapids. One good thing was, the hole in Suck Hole was blocked shut which allowed you to use the eddy directly above it to make an easy ferry back to the left.

Friday's scheduled Upper Yough trip saw very few paddlers. John Pratt, David Herron, Brian Hart, Bob Book, Michael Duvall, and me were followed closely by Brent Laubaugh and John Garcia. Joe & Erick Marksz Paddled with Jim Murtha. All the paddlers had a good day at 2.4' Sang Run Gauge, 1080 CFS.



There was a least one group lead by Bud Chavez paddling the Cheat Canyon at 2' Albright Bridge on Friday.

Saturday is when the crowds came and club members were paddling everywhere.

On the Upper Yough I counted 23 Keel-Haulers paddling in 7 different groups and Bill Warble racing in a last minute boater Cross race.

There were groups on the Cheat Canyon both Saturday and Sunday.

Karl Nelson led at least 15 paddlers down the Lower Yough on Saturday & Sunday. The water level was about 3.7' dropping to 3.2'. There were paddlers there on Monday as well.

Chris & Ann Kiehl led more than 10 paddlers down the Slippery Rock on Saturday & Sunday as well.

Maybe Karl or Ann will write a short story about their trips.

I don't have any pictures but Jeff Macklin takes thousands of pictures on his trips. Here is a link to his 2014 whitewater photos that he posts for your enjoyment on Smugmug. It takes him a little while to upload them all. He has just finished posting the pictures from Michael Duvall's Southern trip in April. <http://jeffmacklin.smugmug.com/Whitewater/2014>

I counted at least 50 different paddlers that said they paddled on the weekend. It's good to see that everyone is out there enjoying our club trips.

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June	For More Trips - Check our <a href="#">Message Board</a>			
6/5,12,19,26	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH) - 5:30-7:30PM but call Dennis first	20-28	<a href="#">Dennis Dukeman</a>	330-699-2916
6/7	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	<a href="#">April Hollis</a>	703-915-6382
6/7,8	TRPC <a href="#">Slippery Rock Clinic Application</a> Membership in KHCC or TRPC REQUIRED	13-19	<a href="#">Joe Marks</a>	216-533-0604
6/10	Club Meeting - <a href="#">Wendy Park on Whiskey Island</a>	SK/FW	<a href="#">Michael Duvall</a>	216-513-5921
6/14	(1) Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Ann Corey</a>	330-869-6549
6/14	Portage Lakes Paddle (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">David Johnson</a>	330-305-1565
6/14,15	Mark Hanna and Carl Schneider Memorial Swiftwater Clinic (WV) <a href="#">More Information</a> Limited to 10, Register early only \$90/person		<a href="#">Joe Marks</a>	216-533-0604
6/14,15	(5) New River (WV)	26	<a href="#">Dave Herron</a>	513-739-5329
6/14,15	(4) Lower Yough - permits (PA)	23	<a href="#">April Hollis</a>	703-915-6382 C
6/14,15	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
6/20,21	Upper Yough (MD) First Saturday Release	32	<a href="#">Bill Warble</a>	412-651-0112
6/27,28	Upper Yough (MD)	32	<a href="#">John Kobak</a>	440-871-1758 440-554-1383

## 2014 Club Officers

President: Michael Duvall 216-521-0094  
VP: Dave Roush 440-623-9035  
Secretary: Donna Homberg 440-236-8360  
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-268-9194

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

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

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

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KHCC WEB PAGE URL: [www.keelhauler.org](http://www.keelhauler.org)

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**Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **July** issue of the newsletter is **6/25/14**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com).**

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