



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS APRIL 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00pm
At the Middleburg Heights Community
Center

Program: A EMT/Fireman from the
Middleburg Fire Department will give a
talk on what to do with accident victims
before aide arrives.

Keelhauler Meeting minutes, 3/8/05

Food was supplied by Jim Hunt before meeting was started.

Ed Charlton called meeting to order.

New Members were:

Chris Meluch who scuba dives, sit upon kayak and is interested in kayaking.

Dan Glomb who is a biker but bad knees has forced him in to kayaking interest.

Brad Lohiser who has raced and is interested in kayaking.

Greg Verosko transferred from Pittsburgh, has been in canoeing for 18 years and interested in sea kayaking.

John White has general interests.

Dick Murr asked for sale or donations of old kayak/canoe equipment for the Boy Scouts. Hank Annable offered some used canoes he no longer uses.

Approve last month's minutes as printed in the news letter.

Jim Hunt (food) asked about thoughts on the food supplied.

Bill Miller (meeting program) suggested April meeting have Middleburg Hts. Fire Dept. present safety discussion and May meeting have Kay Carleton from the North Ohio Nature Conservatory present information about the West Lake Erie basin sea kayak options.

Ed Charlton (safety) told about cold water shock that can disable a swimmer before hypothermia as a danger.

Rob Hammond (Vermilion Race) asked for volunteers. If the race is moved to the lower river due to low water Rob is looking into whether there will be a parking fee after April 1st.

No 'old business'.

No 'new business'

Meeting adjourned.

After refreshments the annual KHCC equipment auction was led by Rob Hammond. There were good buys and people sold equipment that might have gone to waste.

Southern Trip

Its time to let John Kobak keelhauler@yahoo.com know if you are thinking about coming on this years southern trip 4/15 - 4/22. See:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/SouthernTrip2005.pdf> for proposed itinerary.

This is a great trip for those looking to start to paddle rivers more difficult than the Cheat Canyon.

The trip starts easy and increases in difficulty. We split into groups and select rivers that match your skill level. If you did this trip with NOC it would cost hundreds of dollars. All it costs are your own food and campground fees. Car pooling is advisable, John can provide you with a list of drivers and/or riders.

Club Membership

The last few years we have seen a drop in the number of club members. We must not be providing the experience that people are looking for. If anyone has any suggestions on what the club can do to keep present members and attract new one please drop an e-mail to our club president Judi Cleary. judi@jctravels.us If you find yourself paddling with non-members give them a club application, it may be all they need to get them to sign on. You can print an application from this link: <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/KHApplic.pdf>

ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Dear Keelhauler Canoe Club Members,

Tim Balduff-Erie MetroParks Canoe Volunteer & Registered Nurse at Firelands Regional Medical Center, suggested that I contact your organization. Due to the fact that I had rotator cuff surgery, I will be needing assistance with our canoeing programs this year. If you have any members that would be interested in helping, please let me know. I have included pertinent information in this email. The canoe programs take place at The Coupling Reserve, 11618 St. Rte.13, Milan Twp. You may visit www.eriemetroparks.org for park information.

Canoe Volunteer Duties

1. Take canoes off the racks and carry down to the riverbank.
2. Assist program participants in and out of canoes.
3. Enjoy the canoe trip and assist as needed.
4. When finished place canoes on the correct racks.

2005 CANOEING PROGRAMS

Sat, May 7 Take Your Mom Canoeing 1:00-3:00 PM

Sat, June 18 Take Your Dad Canoeing 12:00-3:00 PM

Sat, July 23 Canoe and Root Beer Float 6:30-8:30 PM

Fri, Aug. 19 Full Moon Canoe Float 8:00-10:00 PM

Sat, Aug. 27 Canoe Excursion 9:30-11:30 AM

Thurs, Sept. 8 Coastweeks Canoe Float 5:30-7:30 PM

Sat, Sept. 17 Nearly Full Moon Canoe 7:00-9:00 PM

Sat, Oct. 1 Fall Foliage Canoe/Hike and Brunch
9:00-12:00 PM

****Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to have the canoes & supplies ready.*



I would appreciate any assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Judith Riems, Recreation Technician

Erie MetroParks

3910 Perkins Avenue

Huron, Ohio 44870

419-625-7783 or programs@eriemetroparks.org

Mexico Trip 2005

Continued from March Newsletter by John Kobak

We finally got tired of the 35° mornings and the high temperatures of only 65°. Peggy was looking for warmth and beaches. We drove down from the 7000' high San Cristobal to about 1500' at Tehuantepec.

The big thrill of this drive is the winds which sometime reach 100 mph at La Ventosa. Our large awning started to unfurl as we drove. We finally saw a small drive that I could pull off the road. A little duct tape solved the problem. Interesting enough, in the short time that we were pulled off the road, a Green Angel truck pulled up and offered assistance. I've seen the trucks before, usually on their turnpikes. They drive around Mexico and offer motorists in trouble free assistance. I talked to one camper who had tire and suspension problems. They not only stayed with him for 8 hours but made enough repairs to get him back on the road. On Tuesday we got to Huatulco. This is a resort development, with 9 separate bays, that was planned by the same group that built Cancun. It was started over 10 years ago, but growth has been slow. There are

several big all-inclusive hotels on one beautiful bay, along with a new campground with bathrooms and showers. It is right between a large hotel and the golf course. It is the public beach access but set amongst tropical bird filled trees. Temperatures were in the mid 80's with bright blue skies.

We enjoyed beach walking, bike riding, bird watching and trips to the little town of La Crucecita to shop at their market. Finally on Thursday after spending 9 days in Huatulco, we headed to Puerto Angel's, Zipolite beach.



Fishing off rocks at end of Zipolite Beach

The campground here is very small but right on the beach. Most of the people here are backpackers who just rent a hammock in the palapas along the beach.

An interesting thing about the beautiful one mile long beach is that it is one of the only places in Mexico that tolerates nudity. The sunbathers tend to congregate down near one end and frolic in the large surfing waves, so they didn't bother us. The weather since the mountains hasn't varied much, low 69° F and highs in mid 80's with sunny skies.

We really like having solar panels on the top of our RV. The last two places we stayed in did not have electricity but with all the sun, we had no problems keeping our batteries fully charged. We run our generator only for the microwave or toaster. We brought a lot of frozen meat from home but buy fresh fruit & vegetables, which are very good and inexpensive. We found a great restaurant here with well-prepared food that cost only \$11 for two including beer and tip.



Shopping in Zipolite Beach

On Monday we headed North toward Acapulco. We stopped at the little beach town of Playa Ventura. The town is so small that they don't have phone service yet, but they do have two miles of beautiful beach with lots of little restaurants and several small hotels and no tourists. Most places here allow camping in their parking lots. We stayed 4 nights by an outdoor restaurant on the beach, which had a nice palapa to hang my hammock.

On Friday, 2/11 we decided to head to Pie de la Cuesta, North of Acapulco. We made the mistake of driving right through the middle of Acapulco. Someone threw a stone and cracked my windshield. Then, in the heart of the city with buses and cabs all around me I get stopped by a policeman who claims that I ran a red light and need to pay a \$400 fine. After much negotiating he agrees to accept a \$20 bribe.

We only stayed here for two nights before moving further west. Yes, ever since we hit the Pacific coast, we have been heading west. This part of Mexico curves so that the Pacific Ocean is on the South coast.

It's about a 3 hour drive to Zihuatanejo & Ixtapa. Ziwat. is the old city and Ixtapa is the resort area that was built for the tourists like Huatulco & Cancun. Ziwat. has a nice beach but no nice campgrounds. We heard of a new free campground right on the beach at the far

end of Ixtapa called Playa Linda. Tourists here can catch a small boat to go out to the offshore, Isla Ixtapa, which is packed with little beach restaurants. But by night time all the people are gone.



View of Isla Ixtapa from our camp at sunset.

We enjoyed our six-night stay. There is a 10' wide, 5 mi long paved bike trail that goes along a Crocodile filled Lagoon to the center of Ixtapa and avoids all the hills along the coast. It is also easy to launch my kayak from the beach and paddle by all the big all-inclusive hotels or around the Island. The road to Playa Linda only goes about a mile more along the coast before dead ending. There is a small town off this road with Internet service.

Our next stop was Melaque. We camped at the Hotel Laguna Tule, and had views of both the lagoon and the ocean. They have a nice swimming pool and full hookups for RV's but the beach is steep and kayaking here is only possible on extremely calm days.

After dinner Peggy & I were in RV when a voice outside

heard from him at the Texas border but had heard nothing from him since then. We were worried that he may have crashed or was captured by a group of young Amazon women in the hills of the Copper Canyon. He looked like a wild-eyed Mexican on his combination road/dirt bike.

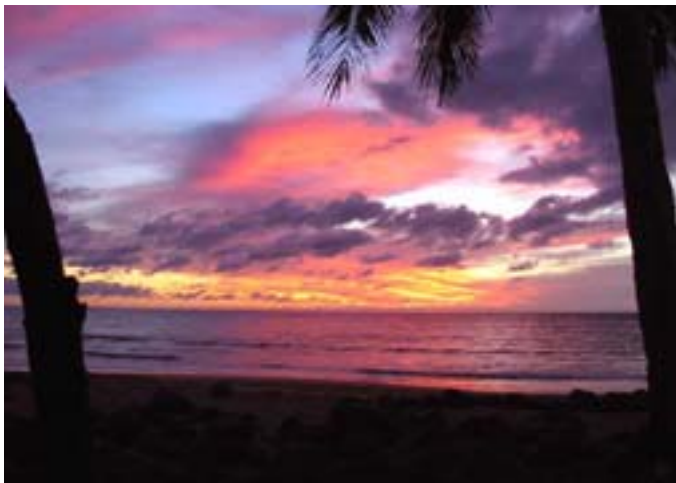


After a few Days, Dave continued South while we headed 60 mi North to Punta Perula (Photo Above). We enjoyed our stay here since we had met most of the campers last year when they gave us lots of free fish. However fishing was slow this year, so no free fish. I enjoyed paddling my kayak around the tranquil south-facing bay. A cold front brought in a little night time rain, less than 0.1" but the temperatures dropped to 60° at night and highs now were only 75°. Campers were wearing their sweatshirts.

We left early on Sunday, 2/27, so that we could avoid the heavy traffic in Puerto Vallarta. We stopped to restock at a Super Wal-Mart and continued to a tiny fishing village of Playa Chacala.



our window came begging for Pesos. Peggy yells, it's Dave Broer! He is doing a motorcycle tour of Mexico & Central America. He left VA about 3 weeks ago. We had



Playa Chacala Sunset

To be continued.....

DONATIONS NEEDED

Mountain Streams and Trails, the oldest outfitter in West Virginia's Cheat Canyon, recently purchased the takeout for both the Cheat and Big Sandy Rivers. This key piece of property, located just below the High Bridge at Jenkinsburg, has been used continuously by canoeists, kayakers, and rafters since the mid-1950's. Increased use by ATV riders and college party groups during the last two decades has caused considerable damage to the land. Jenkinsburg, is now known for terrible erosion and industrial strength litter.

After more than five decades in the hands of a regional power company the property was sold to Allegheny Wood Products, a large hardwood timber producer based in Petersburg, West Virginia. Efforts to negotiate an access agreement with AWP was unsuccessful. Although the access remained open, there was no formal agreement and the company regularly threatened to close it down.

During the past year Dave Hough, the managing partner of Mountain Streams and Trails, negotiated a land swap. He traded a portion of his property below Albright for the Jenkinsburg Access. He and his company are committed to maintaining river access for private paddlers but they need our support.

American Whitewater has agreed to take responsibility for upgrading and maintaining the upper parking lot, which is where most private paddlers park. The area s

now filled with deep potholes and truck-stopping mega-puddles, so considerable grading and filling will be required. The project is currently going out to bid, and ball-park estimates range from \$5000 - \$10,000.

We need your donations to make this happen and to fulfill our promise to the outfitter. Any money raised beyond the cost of improving the parking lot will be used to pay for other improvements at the site and to fund a police presence during busy weekends. American Whitewater has established a Cheat River Fund at their relocated offices in the Washington, DC area.

To donate, make checks out to American Whitewater - Cheat River Fund and mail

to: American Whitewater - Cheat River Fund, 204B Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Thanks, Charlie Walbridge

HEFFFEST NEWS

The 1st Annual HeffFest on the Nolichucky River will be held this May 21st at Big Rock Campground near Erwin, TN. The festival is in honor of fellow paddler and friend, John Heffernan, who lost his life on the Russell Fork this past Oct. It is being hosted by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and all proceeds will go to American Whitewater.

HeffFest will run from 12-10:30pm with all kinds of great things planned. Bluegrass music, silent auctions, boat raffle, free instruction, vendors and, of course, paddling are just some of what's in store. Camping is available on-site. Please forward to your respective club members and, where possible, include on your web sites. We plan to advertise in other ways too but are counting on advertising through other area paddling clubs to be the single best way to get word out and bring paddlers from across our region together for a great time!

See this link for up-to-date information:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1294/>

Ohio Edison dam hydroelectricity permit meeting

On April 12th from 9AM to 12PM a meeting is going to be held at the Sheraton hotel in Cuyahoga Falls regarding a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Preliminary Permit for a new hydroelectric project proposed by Advanced Hydro Solutions at the Ohio Edison Dam.

Friends of the Crooked River will be in attendance in opposition to the project. We are trying to get as many interested members of the community as possible to also be in attendance to let FERC know that this will not just slip quietly through.

Advanced Hydro Solutions is proposing to increase kayak accessibility, but the project will further decrease water quality, the put-in will probably be several hundred feet downstream from the dam, and as long as the dam is in use there will be no chance of its removal.

You can sign an On-Line Petition against the dam:
<http://www.keelhauler.org/cuypetition.htm>

Or sign and mail a statement like this:

"I support the access and usage of the Cuyahoga River flowing through the City of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls for whitewater paddling.
I also support the efforts to prevent the licensing of all projects that limit whitewater paddling and fish habitats at various flow rates.
I further support all efforts to remove the Ohio Edison dam from the Cuyahoga River."

Mail to:
Neal Hess
Friends of the Crooked River
2390 Kensington
Akron, OH 44333

We need more newsletter articles

This is your newsletter. I can't just make up these stories. We need some more trip reports to make it even more interesting. Even if nothing really exciting happened, members like to read who is going on the trips and what is happening out there.

It would especially be good to hear from some Sea Kayakers and find out what brings them to the sport.

Send your short story to:

Kelly Miller, Editor
2767 Matthew Lane
Medina, Ohio 44256
peetzaquy@zoominternet.net

Submitted articles **MUST** be either typed, or on a floppy disk. All newsletter information to appear in the upcoming issue must be received before 4/22/2005

April	THE UPCOMING TRIP SCHEDULE			
4/2	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge OH	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
4/3	Vermilion Race	8	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/9	Slippery Rock	13-19	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
4/9	Conneaut Creek	8	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/9,10	Casselman	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/9,10	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/9,10	Creeking in the Stonycreek Watershed	20-26	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
4/15-21	Southern Rivers Trip -- Map	22-31	John Kobak	440-871-1758
4/16,17	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/16	Grand River	8	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
4/17,18?	Riversport RiverFest		Bob Ruppel	800-216-6991
4/17	Conoquenessing Creek	14	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
4/17	Bear Creek	??	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/22-24	Middle Fork & Tygart	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/22-24	Stonycreek Rendezvous	21	Jim Kosicki Ross Brinkerhoff	216-587-4528 440-286-1476
4/23,24	Slippery Rock	13-19	Rick Feinberg	216-321-9284
4/23,24	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/30-5/1	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/30-5/1	WV Creeking	>32	Brent Laubaugh John Garcia	724-272-6944 216-210-7544
May				
5/1	Little Beaver	7	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
5/1	Cheat River Race Clinic	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/6,7,9	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758