

# Keelhauler's Ka-news APRIL, 2014



## Next Club Meeting Tuesday.

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

**Program: Jim Hunt will present a slide show  
about the club's paddling trip to Costa Rica  
last January.**

Another trip is being put together by Jeff Cramer for 1/03-10/2015, sign up  
at the meeting.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Duvall



VERMILION RIVER RACE MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> - The clean up crew Marie Blatnik and Hank Annable and other volunteers ran the river on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> and said that it was clear at that time and ready for the race. The race will take place on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Let's hope we have enough water to run the section from Birmingham to Mill Hollow. We can use plenty of help with safety and important areas (contact Marie Blatnik 216-956-2314). Hope to see everyone there.

There is a Southern Rivers trip planned for April 12-18 which will hit many of the rivers and creeks in Southern Appalachia. The goal is to go find good water levels and warmer weather.

Keep an eye on the schedule for the next two months. Spring is peak season for paddling, April showers means the creeks are running. There are all kinds of trips this month; North Branch of the Potomac, Grand River, and Little Beaver are excellent for members that want class II fun. Middle Fork and Tygart WV trip with John Kobak is a unique trip starting on a small creek and finishing on a large Cheat size river.

Cheat Fest on the first weekend in May has something for everyone; choice of great rivers, music, vendors selling equipment and lots more. The Cheat race on Friday and we are always looking for more members to sign up for the race. You don't have to be fast, just be able to finish and the after party with free beer is great fun.

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

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**KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 11, 2014 minutes at Middleburg Heights Recreation Center**  
**By Donna Homberg**

17 people in attendance.

Treasurer's report read and approved. Checks to be mailed for Conservation as provided for in the budget.

Thank you to Jim Hunt for doing such a superb job on the Yearbook.

New Business: Upcoming Vermilion Race scheduled for March 30, 2014 with cleanup planned for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Alternate date of April 6<sup>th</sup> planned. Race Chairwoman, Marie Blatnik plans to e-mail the poster to reprint and pass on along with the race form and rules. Hank Annable and Jimmy Botamer described the block ice that is jamming the river at Mill Hollow Park at this time. Thanks to Dean Norman for depicting the absence of a missing Chuck Singer in a kayak on our poster. It was commented that Chuck had participated in the past 23 years or more at the race.

No trip reports. Slippery Rock trip with Brent Hendren was March 8-9<sup>th</sup>.

Acknowledgment of Sue Taft's memoir on Chuck Singer as it appeared in the AW magazine in the Jan/Feb 2014 issue and reprinted for our Keelhauler newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned with light refreshments.

An excellent video presentation and pictures describing his African Safari by Hank Annable concluded the meeting for this month.

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## Cheat Fest Weekend! May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>

Cheat Fest weekend is coming up which means plenty of paddling options. Join the Cheat race and contact race leader Cliff Wire. There are many other options listed thanks to the trip leaders below. Stop in at Cheat Fest and support Friends of the Cheat and local vendors.

5/2	<a href="#">Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race</a> (WV)	26	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541
5/2,3	Upper Yough (MD) or Big Sandy or Tygart (WV)	32	<a href="#">Bill Warble</a>	412-651-0112
5/3,4	<a href="#">Cheat Fest Weekend</a> (WV)	18-26	<a href="#">April Hollis</a>	703-915-6382
5/4	(3) Cheat Narrows or (5) Canyon(WV)	18 or 26	<a href="#">Phil/Jen Raber</a>	740-498-7063
5/3,4	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Jerry Spence</a>	614-561-3198

## It's Cheat Fest's TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY!

Join us on **Saturday, May 3, 2014** to celebrate.



The annual Cheat River Festival is a celebration of new life, that which comes each Spring and the new life that can be found in the Cheat River watershed. "Cheat Fest" is FOC's main 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!



*The always popular climbing wall from Cheat River Outfitters. Photo by Dale Briggs Footage.*

From **noon till 11:00pm on Saturday, May 3**, 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 entertain crowds with live music all day, while Fest goers browse the Art Market, learn about other non-profit organizations that share the FOC vision, bid on a great array of silent auction goods, buy from a variety of food and merchandise vendors, and above all, help support Friends of the Cheat. Another reason to love Cheat Fest: **kids under twelve are free!** This year, kids of all ages will congregate at the ever-growing kids tent from noon till 5:00pm for a host of hands-on activities. Plus, don't miss the chance to climb to the top: the always popular climbing wall is back!

Festival goers can test their athletic ability by participating in the [5K foot race](#) or the [Cheat Canyon "Mass-Occurrence" Downriver Race](#). The Cheat River Festival is always a great demonstration of public support for increased awareness and access to the Cheat River's outstanding natural and recreational qualities.



*The Festival draws thousands of river, music, and art lovers to the shores of the Cheat on the first Saturday in May. Photo by Gabe DeWitt*

Advance tickets will be sold online beginning in April. Stay tuned throughout the spring as we update this page with 2014 fest details.

Questions? Contact Festival Coordinator Emma Donovan at [cheatfest@cheat.org](mailto:cheatfest@cheat.org) or 304.441.1670.

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**You should have received your 2014 Yearbook & Roster by now. If you have not please e-mail me and give me your mailing address.**

**[Need Yearbook?](#)**

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**2014 Trip Organizers Needed**

Please review our new 2014 trip schedule and see if you can take-on one of the trips which has no organizer listed. [E-Mail to April Hollis - apstylehollis@gmail.com](mailto:apstylehollis@gmail.com) or 703-915-6382

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## Interesting Facts About Keel-Hauler Membership By John Kobak

As our club nears its 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary I was looking at some interesting statistics about our membership.

2014 Members - 261 have paid, by the end of the year we should reach about 300 members as we have for the past 25 years.

28% of our members come from 14 states other than Ohio

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

Why do we have so many out of state members? I think it is two things; We have the biggest trip schedule of any USA club, We offer class IV-V trips to all members, while other clubs reserve these for a close knit group of friends. We welcome and encourage new members to become more skilled by paddling with a friendly group of more advanced paddlers.

94% of our members are involved in WW paddling

But we are also interested in Flatwater - 30%, Wilderness camping - 28%, Sea Kayaking - 24%

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

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

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

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

Almost 100 members have been in the club 20 years or more. This link has the 20 members in our club the longest time. <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/longtime.htm>

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## Mark Hanna and Carl Schneider Memorial Swiftwater Clinic

Instructor: Charlie Walbridge

When: June 14 and 15, 2014

Where: Teter's Campground in Albright, WV.

Contact: [joemarksz@gmail.com](mailto:joemarksz@gmail.com)

Web: <http://charliewalbridge.com/>

Charlie Walbridge, American Whitewater's Safety Guru, will be conducting the Mark Hanna and Carl Schneider Memorial Swiftwater Rescue Clinic for KH and TRPC members during the weekend of June 14/15, 2014. It will cover the full gamut of safety instruction from group dynamics, self rescue, pin/broach recovery, strong swimmer rescue, etc. Refer to Charlie's Web Site for complete course details. The dry land portion of this 2 day Clinic will be held at Teter's Campground and the water portion will be held at an appropriate nearby river. We will stay at Teter's Campground and if energy/time permits, we will try to get a run in on the Cheat or Sandy during the weekend. The course will be limited to 10 participants so commit early if interested. Based on 10 people the cost will be \$90 per person.

Contact Joe Marks at [joemarksz@gmail.com](mailto:joemarksz@gmail.com) with questions or to lock in your spot.

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April	For More Trips - Check our <a href="#">Message Board</a>			
4/5	(3) Cuyahoga River, <a href="#">Upper or Lower Gorge</a> (OH) Water Level dependent	20-28	<a href="#">Brandon Conrad</a>	330-631-5199
4/5,6	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/8	Club Monthly Meeting at <a href="#">Middleburg Hts</a>		<a href="#">Michael Duvall</a>	216-513-5921
4/12-18	(4) Southern Rivers Trip TN,NC,SC,GA <a href="#">Map - Detail map</a>	22-32	<a href="#">Michael Duvall</a>	216-513-5921
4/12	(1) Grand River (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Carl Kudrna</a>	440-263-0451
4/13	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/12,13	<a href="#">16th annual Webster WW Weekend</a> (WV)		<a href="#">Brent Hendren</a>	330-414-2063
4/13	(1) Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Doug Lyons</a>	740-317-7007
4/19	(3) Cuyahoga River, <a href="#">Lower Gorge</a> (OH)	20	<a href="#">Chris Kiehl</a>	330-869-6549
4/19,20	(5) Middle Fork & Tygart (WV)	29	<a href="#">John Kobak</a>	440-871-1758 440-554-1383
4/19,20	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Chuck McDowell</a>	330-447-1086
4/20	(1) <a href="#">Grand River Race</a> - Alternate Date 4/26	SK/FW	<a href="#">Brian Davidson</a>	800-669-9226
4/26	(3) Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge & Boater-X Race (OH)	20	<a href="#">Corey Spoores</a>	419-308-1625
4/26,27	WV Class V Creeking	32	<a href="#">John Garcia</a> <a href="#">Brent Laubaugh</a>	440-777-6077 724-272-6944
4/27	(5) Cheat River Race Clinic (WV)	26	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541

## Vermillion River Race Results

The Vermillion River Race took place on Sunday, March 30th in a blessing of sunshine and thawing after a snowstorm the night before. Low water held the race downstream in Vermillion, which excited those paddling fiberglass and disappointed those hoping for whitewater. Over 30 racers braced the cold water to compete for the coveted Keelhauler Vermilion Race medals. The race was a success due to those racers, and many behind the scenes hands that I am very grateful to. I would like to thank our Keelline kayak sponsor, Jon Maistros. I would like to thank Jon Reising for heading the anti-wood coalition as well as the group of paddlers who went with us to scout for strainers on the river. Also thank you to Bob Bair for single-handedly running the concession stand, to Pam Poljak for handling pre-registrations, registrations, and race computation, and her registration team. Thank you also to my timing team -- Hank Annable, Jim Botamer, and Philip and Hayden Thorne. Thank you to boat inspector Cliff Wire, who also helped me to set up the buoys for the downstream race, and to Michael Duvall who aided me with race organization and counsel before and during the race. Thank you also to my sweep boater, who has a name that I don't remember. This mysterious force of greatness also grabbed the race buoys and the end; thank you for that as well. It was an amazing race, and it came together due to all of these amazing people. I think Chuck Singer would've been proud of us.



# 2014 Vermilion River Race Results

Class	Description	Place	Bib	Time	Name	2nd Racer	Handi
1	<b>C-2 Unrestricted Canoe</b>						
		1	175	0:51:58	Oravec, Dave	Burt, Richard	
2	<b>C-2 Mixed or Women Canoe</b>						
		1	173	0:39:54	Masek, Dan	Masek, Sarah	
3	<b>C-2 Men's Standard Canoe</b>						
		1	172	0:48:56	Ulichney, Peter	Romanski, Dan	
		2	154	0:54:20	Wood, Scott	Wood, Mark	
4	<b>C-2 Senior &gt; 49 yrs old</b>						
		1	162	0:44:14	Markwell, Walter	Williams, Al	03:10:
6	<b>C-1 One Person Canoe</b>						
		1	170	0:35:34	Conant, Skip		
		2	180	1:00:36	Carrion, James		
7	<b>K-1 Junior &lt; 16 yrs old</b>						
		1	151	0:42:57	Piros, Tom		
8	<b>K-1 Short Kayak &lt; 11.5', Men</b>						
		1	181	0:52:09	Duvall, Michael		
		2	152	0:55:20	Stoll, Mike		
		3	156	0:58:07	Homberg, Carl		
9	<b>K-1 Short Kayak &lt; 11.5', Women</b>						
		1	157	1:02:55	Homberg, Donna		
10	<b>K-1 Kayak &lt; 14.4', Men</b>						
		1	177	0:41:52	Rabatin, Jacob		
		2	167	0:45:51	Stoll, Mike		
		3	171	0:47:38	Skidmore, James		
		4	147	0:50:08	Kernohan, Mark		
		5	158	0:54:42	Koscho, Robb		
11	<b>K-1 Kayak &gt; 11.5', Women</b>						
		1	166	0:52:19	Morse, Chris		
		2	169	0:58:04	Moore, Stephanie		

# 2014 Vermilion River Race Results

12	K-1 Senior > 49 yrs old, < 14.5'					
		1	178	0:41:55	Rabatin, Jacob	
		2	168	0:44:20	Herbert, Larry	
		3	165	0:44:50	McCrate, Kelly	
		4	174	0:56:44	Hull, Thomas	
13	K-1 Long Kayak >14.5', Men					
		1	161	0:35:25	White, Joe	
14	K-1 Senior > 49 yrs old Long Kayak > 14.5'					
		1	149	0:37:15	Mellblom, Peter	
		2	153	0:37:56	Widman, Richard	
		3	164	0:39:32	Rogers, John	
15	K-1 Senior Women >49 yrs old, >11.5'					
		1	155	0:45:24	Burkett, Jana	



## 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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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.

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**Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **May** issue of the newsletter is **4/24/14**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com).**

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