

# Keelhauler's Ka-news APRIL, 2018



**Next Club Get-Together to be announced...**

Contact: [John Banach](#) if you have any questions . . . 330-606-5032

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

## **President's Message From John Banach**

Hello to all my fellow Haulers.

Can you believe that April is on our doorstep? Time is flying by faster than I can handle. So, I'd better catch up... There is a lot going on as we head into the Spring season. And our club has more than a lot going on.

Many of us were ready for the Vermilion Race this past weekend. Unfortunately, because of high winds in the area, the call was made to postpone the race to April 8<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the schedule change does not hurt the attendance. Let's all pray for warm weather and good rains. Jon Reising still needs volunteers for the race day. So please contact Jon if you are able and willing to lend a hand. I guarantee it will be fun for all. Let's try and get a good club presence this year.

Speaking of races, the Cuyahoga Falls race is coming up April 21<sup>th</sup>. Mark it on your calendar if you haven't done yet. Don Howdyshell and his race crew have been putting in the hours to make the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual race a flawless success. Keep an eye out for posting on both the Website and FB pages for updates.

The club will once again be a CF race sponsor. Part of our sponsorship allows us to put up a tent. Just like we did last year. I think it is important to show our presence and hopefully attract new members. I also need members to help me during the day working the tent. I need outgoing KH members to be ambassadors of our club and sport. To talk about our club, our trip schedule, equipment, hand out flyers and stickers, and more. Last year I had limited help once the race began so I'll be asking this time for club members to sign up for certain time slots to

work the tent. I also plan to once again bring all types of kayaks, canoes, and equipment for kids and adults to touch, try on, and try out...On land of course. "Touch a Yak" was very popular last year so why mess with a good thing...

No meeting this April. I think everyone has a lot on their plate right now. So, I do not see a reason to pull everyone together during the work week. So just keep an eye out for any updates on the races, club functions, trip schedules, etc.

Thank you all again for keeping our club active and fun. We could always use more participation, more trips, and more instruction for novice paddlers looking to improve their skills. Hopefully we can all give back to the club and get more out of it at the same time. And please reach out to me if you have any ideas that could help improve the club or make it more attractive and fun. I look forward to seeing many of you over the next month.

SYOTRS,

John Banach

**Treasurer's Report  
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Monthly Treasurer's Report  
March 23, 2018**

CD 0402	\$2, 292.48
CD 1077	<u>\$2, 290.04</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4, 582.52
Checking	<u>\$18, 044.77</u>
Total	<u>\$22, 627.29</u>

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Race  
By Jon Reising**

The race has been postponed to Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, due to high winds. Race volunteers are still needed if you can help! Please contact Jon Reising at [mnmsguy@yahoo.com](mailto:mnmsguy@yahoo.com) or 440-967-9507.

## Slip Trip-8 feet By Matt Fredmonsky

Most trips to the Slip aren't worth writing home about. But this spring the river was running at 8 feet on the mill gauge and was too tempting to pass up.

A few of us were considering running the upper section, but after looking at the gnarliness of the slide at Kennedy Mill we opted to just run the lower section by putting in at Eckert Bridge. While setting shuttle, we saw the river just a few feet beneath Harris Bridge and had to scout for some relatively calm eddies to get out of our boats!



Slippery Rock Creek at Harris Bridge, the takeout for the lower Slip from Eckert to Harris.

With the mill gauge at 8 feet, the Wurtemberg gauge was reading 6,400 cfs. The force and size of the water in some sections was easily comparable to any of the big water runs east of the Mississippi. Huge waves, eddy lines that would reach up and grab your stern and monstrous holes were the order of the day.



A solid group of paddlers tackled the lower Slip at 8 feet. From left are Jason, "Pot," Sarah, Don, Chuck, Tyler, Josiah, Javan, Jeremiah, Dan, Matt and Nick with Chad chilling with his Gatorade.

At Eckert Bridge, the water level reached to the bottom of the stairs leading to the top of the bridge. The beach was under about 4 feet of water making for a raucous eddy. A few paddlers walked up to run Martin's Ledge, the last rapid of the upper section and were thoroughly soaked when they pulled in to the eddy as the rest of the group put on.



This is what the Slip looks like at 8 feet.

The run was mostly huge wave trains that ran for a few hundred feet. The holes were easily avoidable for the first two-thirds of the paddle. It wasn't until the last roughly quarter-mile, when things are getting spicy even at 4 feet, that you had to pay attention.



**Boat-swallowing wave trains for days on the lower Slip at 8 feet.**

The last stretch leading to the takeout had some waves that were comparable to Lower Staircase on the Lower Gauley. These were river-wide waves that were easily 8 feet to 10 feet tall. This is where it got sketchy, because you had no idea what was over the next wave. Everyone had to scout from the peak of the wave to see if there were holes, or how the next few waves were breaking, and then you had to start making your move as you slid down into the trough and started getting catapulted up the next wave. It was epically unexpected for one of the tamest whitewater runs in the area at normal flows.



**Almost at the takeout, the waves calmed down to about 6 feet or so.**

There were less than a few combat rolls despite quite a few playboaters. One unfortunate soul had a righteous swim after getting thrown into a hole behind a monster wave, rolling up and getting tossed into another hole. All their gear was recovered despite the intense speed of the current.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018



Click Image for official website & registration

For more information, contact [Don Howdysshell](#) at 330-671-0825.

## Good News for Water Quality By Matt Fredmonsky

### Brecksville Dam demolition project set to begin in fall after environmental OK

Updated Mar 20, 4:24 PM; Posted Mar 20, 4:23 PM



Fishermen like to cast their lines into the pools at the bottom of the spillway, but environmentalists say the removal of the dam will improve the quality of the water and the health of the fish. (James F. McCarty/*The Plain Dealer*) <="" data-path="/metro/index.ssf/2018/03/brecksville\_dam\_demolition\_pro\_1.html" data-widget="counter">

By **James F. McCarty**, *The Plain Dealer*, [jmccarty@plaind.com](mailto:jmccarty@plaind.com)

BRECKSVILLE, Ohio - The long-awaited demolition of the Brecksville Dam has cleared its final hurdle and could be completed by the end of this year, the Ohio EPA and the National Park Service announced Tuesday.

A newly-released final environmental assessment determined that the dam's removal would have no significant impact on the health of the Cuyahoga River, allowing the deconstruction work to begin as soon as this fall, weather permitting.

The demolition of the 8-foot tall, 183-foot-long dam is expected to improve water quality, oxygen levels and river flow, while providing an inviting habitat for fish species not seen upriver in decades, such as walleye, Northern pike, steelhead trout, white bass and potentially even sturgeon.

By removing the dam, state environmentalists will take a major step toward returning the Cuyahoga to a fully functioning riparian ecosystem, flowing freely from its source in Geauga County to its mouth at Lake Erie. Only the 60-foot-tall Gorge Dam, which spreads 420-feet-wide at the Akron-Cuyahoga Falls border, will remain as an obstacle to a free-flowing, dam-free river after the Brecksville Dam is brought down.

A public hearing on the Gorge project, estimated to cost \$70 million, is scheduled for Thursday at North High School in Akron.

The Brecksville Dam project will include the installation of a pump that will divert as much as 13 million gallons of river water per day to the adjacent Ohio & Erie Canal, thus preserving the cultural and historic significance of the canal as a part of Cleveland's Industrial Valley. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will operate the system.

Bill Zawiski, an environmental supervisor with the Ohio EPA in Twinsburg, said previously that the demolition project is not expected to be complicated or expensive.

Zawiski previously worked to demolish dams in Cuyahoga Falls, Kent and Munroe Falls.

## **How Long to Paddle class V? By Jon McAnuity**

A number of recent threads on the Upper G., creeking close calls, how long before paddling class V?, play boat vs creekboat design, etc. have me cogitating so I thought I'd throw out some of these thoughts to be considered. Indigenous natives are commonly renowned for their survival abilities under what may be fairly forbidding or rigorous year-round conditions. Arctic natives, desert dwellers, etc., are often looked to as laudable examples of surviving in the wild successfully using only your own abilities and wits to augment minimal available technological resources. In the book "Into the Wild", Krakauer describes the end of the life of Chris McCandless, a romantic adventurer who ventured into the wilds of Alaska equipped with a small caliber rifle, little food and his own resourcefulness. After several months, McCandless died due

to the culmination of the effects of a series of seemingly inconsequential and unrelated decisions. Chris McCandless, in his own way, was attempting to recreate the primitive man experience and went into the bush knowing that he was taking a calculated risk and that he may not return if things did not go well. However, the one thing that Chris McCandless did not consider and most noticeably lacked was a background of local native lore.

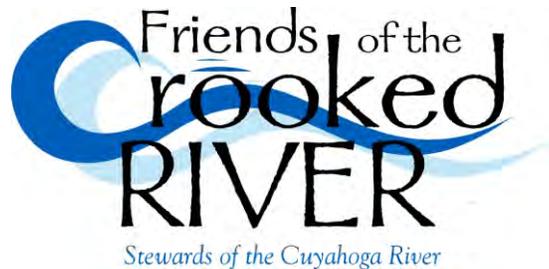
Native lore (as I am using it here) is the cumulative knowledge of successful and unsuccessful survival strategies passed on to the youth of an indigenous tribe in a hundred different ways. The accumulation of this lore occurs while a native in a hostile environment is growing up and is presumably protected to some degree by their sheltering elders. Direct instruction, bits and pieces of knowledge gleaned from overheard conversations around the fire, legends passed down over generations, traditions in hunting and food gathering practices, and personal experiences during the youthful learning curve for comparison against the background knowledge gained from the successful elders of the tribe all combined to provide skills, knowledge and the instincts required to avoid the subtle missteps which killed Chris McCandless.

Hard water boating has many similarities to surviving in a hostile local environment. Once you commit to the river you are in a physical environment which is impervious to your manipulations. The river doesn't care if you are on it or not. The river is a force. Thus, a paddler must have the physical and mental skills to control their fate in this potentially hostile environment. The truly athletically gifted and motivated paddler can, particularly with today's boat designs, rapidly advance in the physical skills of boat control. However, the paddler that goes from ground zero to class V in a period of months is similar to Chris McCandless in that they lack the "native lore" that will keep them from making the many small missteps that can result in disaster.

There is another analogy to this in surgery. I teach surgery to veterinary students, and perform surgery on client animals, for a living. A skilled surgeon can make a complicated procedure appear deceptively simple. A very talented student could potentially closely mimic the moves made in a given procedure and thus give the appearance of being an advanced surgeon. However, no two procedures, similar to sequential runs on a given river, will progress the same. As the student repeats a procedure, small variances in what is done will creep in. The experienced surgeon will know where the limits of the envelope are so that any variances in technique will remain within these boundaries and the procedure will be completed successfully time and time again. The talented student will not know where the boundaries of the envelope reside and will eventually blunder into these limits and cause a complication. This will occur because the student has not had sufficient time learning or being mentored enough to have acquired the necessary "native lore".

The connection to paddling hard water is obvious. No matter how many days you might paddle over a couple of months you will not run into enough variances of your runs under different conditions of water levels, fatigue, glare, type of runs, cold, altitude hypoxia and on and on to acquire the innate sense of where the boundaries of the envelope resides. In class V paddling, the boundaries are dangerous, possibly fatal. Having the physical skills to make the moves is not enough. A paddler needs to be aware of the vagaries of chance that can induce variances in their runs. They need to be able to at least try to predict the potential for these variances and be able to change plans accordingly, often in an instant. Each and every factor which can affect where you and your boat may end up is an opportunity for a small misstep which may or may not lead to a series of events culminating in injury or tragedy. These factors include everything about the boating experience boat design choice, other equipment, repertoire of paddle strokes, special moves for various conditions, strength, ability to use the water, efficiency of

motion to prevent fatigue over long paddles, nerve, etc. The list of relevant factors is long and often situation specific. Having the physical skills is mandatory. However, more subtly, having the ingrained “native lore” to make the correct judgments 100% of the time is just as necessary. In paddling, “native lore” includes the foreknowledge of how each discernible factor may affect your boating and also, whenever possible, an intimate knowledge of the hazards of a specific river. For exploratories, having a broad base of experience comprising your “native lore” will allow you to best judge the risks of a particular river or rapid while scouting. For me, it is the necessary physical skills combined with an experience-based “native lore” that makes for a long and joyous paddling lifetime. This is why my answer to “how long to paddle class V?” is 3 years, not 3 months.



## Friends of the Crooked River Present 2018 River Rat Revelry

### Our Annual Gathering

When: Thursday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Program begins at 7:00 pm,

Where: Lions Lodge

641 Silver Lake Avenue  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Program: The Gorge Area: Growing a Park, Understanding History

Megan Shaeffer, Cultural Resource Specialist, Summit Metro Parks,

Snow Lake, Saved for Conservation

Ken Schneider, The Nature Conservancy

Also: Canal Diversion Dam Update

Find out where we've been and what's in store for the Cuyahoga River and its friends. Sewers, Dams, WaterTrail, Programs and Projects

Share Cuyahoga cheer with fellow river rats.

Music: **The Acoustic Blues of Paul Pira**

Light refreshments will be served: Bring a dish to share and your own table service

Contact: Elaine Marsh 330-666-4026 or email [ohgreenway@gmail.com](mailto:ohgreenway@gmail.com)

[www.cuyahogariver.net](http://www.cuyahogariver.net)

There will be a **special meeting for members** prior to the program at the River Rat Revelry at Lion's Lodge, 641 Silver Lake Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 at 6:45 PM. The purpose of this meeting is finalize the election of Board of Directors. No other business will be considered. If you wish to participate, please be there. See ballot email for more information.

**Please contact Our Trip Organizer to add, correct, or  
volunteer to lead any trips listed. [Joe Boyd](#) . . . .  
740-632-6725**

<b>April</b>	For More Trips - Check our <a href="#">Message Board</a>			
4/7,8	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Josiah Colvin</a>	330-671-0910
4/7,8	(3) Cheat and Potomac South Branch watersheds. Be sure to contact Steve for river choice, like Potomac, Stonycreek, Casselman, Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy rivers	18	<a href="#">Steve Ingalls</a>	216-371-8250
4/7,8	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/8	(1) <a href="#">Vermilion Race (OH)</a> Sunday March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2018  Click picture for poster	SK/FW	<a href="#">Jon Reising</a>	440-967-9507
4/8	(1) Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Doug Lyons</a>	740-317-7007
4/10	Club Monthly Meeting at Brick House Tavern, 581 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221		<a href="#">John Banach</a>	330-606-5032
4/14	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Mark Spang</a>	440-522-0520
4/20	Upper Yough (MD)	32	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/21	Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race (OH) <a href="#">Upper Gorge Limit 600 CFS</a>  Click Image for official website & registration	28	<a href="#">Don Howdysshell</a>	330-671-0825
4/21,22	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/21,22	(5) Middle Fork & Tygart (WV)	29	<a href="#">FIFO Trip</a>	440-554-1383
4/21	(1) <a href="#">Grand River Race</a>	SK/FW	<a href="#">Brian Davidson</a>	440-358-7275
4/27	Upper Yough (MD)	32	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
4/28,29	(5) Cheat Canyon, Cranberry or Upper Meadow (WV) Be sure to contact Dave for river choice.	26	<a href="#">Dave Herron</a>	513-681-4075
4/28	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Katie &amp; Joe Boyd</a>	740-632-6725
4/29 or 5/6	(1) Grand River (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Andy Gross</a>	216-321-9284
4/29	(5) Cheat Canyon Paddle & Race Clinic (WV)	26	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541
<b>May</b>	For More Trips - Check our <a href="#">Message Board</a>			
5/4	<a href="#">Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race</a> (WV)	26	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541
5/4,5,6	Upper Yough (MD) or Big Sandy or Tygart (WV) Be sure to contact Dave for river choice.	32	<a href="#">Dave Herron</a>	513-681-4075
5/4,5,6	Cheat Fest Weekend (WV)	18-26	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
5/6	(3) Cheat Narrows (WV)	18	<a href="#">Phil/Jen Raber</a>	330-827-7063
5/5,6	(3) Cheat and Potomac South Branch watersheds. Be sure to contact Steve for river choice, like Potomac, Stonycreek, Casselman, Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy rivers	18	<a href="#">Steve Ingalls</a>	216-371-8250

## 2018 Club Officers

**President:** John Banach 330-606-5032  
**VP:** Don Howdysshell 330-671-0825  
**Secretary:** Rob Kirby 330-322-6634  
**Treasurer:** Sam Reynolds 330-962-5501

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, second Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. Sometimes changes, so please check website.

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](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, 2018** issue of the newsletter is **4/23/18**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com).**

**KeelHauler Kanews**  
**Kelly Miller, Editor**  
**701 Forrest Ave.**  
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**APRIL, 2018**

