

Keelhauler's

Ka-news

AUGUST, 2014



**Next Club Meeting Saturday, August 16 at 6:30 PM
at Tall Oaks Campground near Ohiopyle, PA**

Program: Picnic in PA

All Levels of Paddling & Waterfall Running on the weekend with a Saturday night picnic!

We'll be doing something different this month. Instead of a Tuesday club meeting, the meeting will be Saturday, August 16th. This is the same weekend as the club Yough trips and Ohiopyle Falls Festival. There will be an opportunity for all types kayaking, canoeing or viewing. Yough Lake for the flatwater paddlers, Middle, Lower & Upper Yough depending on your skill level for paddlers. There are also beautiful biking & hiking paths for those that choose not to paddle in the area. Saturday evening at 6:30 pm will be a Potluck Picnic Dinner at Tall Oaks campground for members, family and friends. You do not have to camp here to join the picnic. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware and soft drinks. Members should bring appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts according to your last name.

- **A-F - Salad/vegetable/or baked beans**
- **G-L - Chips or Appetizer**
- **M-S - Dessert or Fruit**
- **T-Z - Potato/Pasta Salad**

[Jim Hunt](#) 330-335-5203 is the Skip Work Day organizer on the Lower Yough for Thursday 8/14
[Debbie Avallone](#) 440-835-2547 is the Ladies Only Day organizer on the Lower Yough for Friday 8/15
[John Kobak](#) 440-554-1383 is the Upper Yough trip organizer for Friday & Saturday 8/15, 16
[Karl Nelson](#) 330-497-2483 is the Lower Yough trip organizer for Saturday & Sunday
[Mark Spang](#) 440-522-0520 is the Middle Yough trip organizer for Saturday & Sunday
Saturday - Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race [Contact Barry Adams](#). . . 412-242-4562 for more information.
Sunday - We'll paddle Lower Yough again before heading home.

More details to follow on our Message Board.

Meeting/Dinner Questions? - Call 216=513-5921 or e-mail - [Michael Duvall](#)

[Tall Oaks Information](#)

[Tall Oaks Directions via new Mon-Fayette Turnpike](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Duvall



Our July meeting at Silver Lake was fairly well attended with 27 members. Special thanks to John Kobak and Jim Botamer for using their grills to cook all burgers and hotdogs. Also Bob Bair for supplying food and refreshments all year. The food was great thanks to everyone that brought a dish to pass.

Our next meeting will be a picnic dinner at Tall Oaks on Saturday August 16 after paddling. The club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. This will be a very busy weekend with "give your boss the bird day" Thursday and Ladies day on Friday. Remember that anyone seeking more instruction, On 8/9-10 there is the TRPC Turkey Bash on the Lower Yough, Sign up by 8/4. Turkey Bash 2014 Info & Forms KHCC members same as TRPC.

Our membership and Officers terms expire on September 30 so be ready to renew your membership and volunteer to fill a role as Officer or Chair Person.

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

Michael

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2014 minutes at Silver Lake

By Donna Homberg

Outdoor meeting this month at Silver Lake for a paddle time with a pot luck picnic.

17 in attendance.

The day was cloudy and rain possibilities but the skies were clear for this evening. No formal meeting but a nice time of sharing trips made within the last month and also past trips.

Two new guests introduced, Magena and Paul Bamford. Welcome and please come back again.

Rick Feinberg entertained us on his guitar with some really sweet music as the sun was setting. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report
By Pam Poljak

Keelhaulers Canoe Club
Treasurer's Report, 10-Jul-2014

CD 0402		\$2,262.60
CD 3516		\$2,260.75
CD 4709		\$2,242.00
Subtotal		\$6,765.35
Checking		\$5,043.32
Total		\$11,808.67

Paddling the Upper
Upper Yough 2014 ♦ July 18-19, 2014
By Beth Grafing

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Days Paddled</u>
Doug Smith	Trip Leader / TRG/ Keelhauler	Friday, Saturday
Beth Grafing	Student / TRG/ Keelhauler	Friday, Saturday
David Herron	Keelhauler	Friday, Saturday
John Greer	Keelhauler	Friday, Saturday
Brent Laubaugh	Keelhauler	Saturday
Kelly Miller	Keelhauler	Saturday

Well, I survived the Upper Yough, almost unscathed...almost...

Day one was a real challenge because I found warm-up ruffles and the "magnificent mile" overwhelming. As I watched Doug peel out of the eddy, almost instantaneously he was out of sight. How am I supposed to follow him and mimic his boat angle and paddle strokes if I can't see him? That section reminded me of "Eddy Hop" on the Lower Yough - but on steroids. There's a lot going on. There was a lot more water, pushiness, and swirliness that reminded me of a play park more than a river.

Fellow paddler Mark Warren described the Upper: "seems like every rapid there's a jumble of rocks - just avoid them and make a bouf". Within the first few miles, I found that description pretty accurate. Each rapid is technically challenging: I had to have the perfect stroke at the perfect time. For instance, the approach to Bastard isn't intimidating - per se. I could see the lines unlike other rapids that have distinct blind drops. Avoiding holes, it's best to make a bouf into an eddy before ascending the 'bastard' holes. But: miss the bouf, get sucked downstream and possibly into the hole. Hence, stroke timing is everything.

Mark went on to describe the experience as "overstimulation" and "sensory overload". During the Magnificent Mile, I saw what he meant. I had to paddle hard to make it into eddies. I couldn't just subtly finesse the boat like on other rivers.

The GoPro video showed what I did wrong at Triple Drop. After missing the eddy, I stayed right (the correct line) for the first two holes but found myself toward the center of the river for the final drop. The hole didn't look too bad; I mean it was half the size of Big Nasty on the Cheat. Since I missed the line, I squared-up to the hole and tried to punch through it. Alas, I didn't make it and the hole sucked me back in. I side surfed for a bit before flipping over. Luckily the hole didn't keep me long and I had enough sense when I rolled up to work my way river left - just in time to eddy out before National Falls.

I was able to catch my breath before National - which, as it turns out, was a much needed breath. I stayed left for the traditional line but I was too far left. I flipped but the infamous hole spared me and I experienced the first of four "sighs of relief" on the Upper. From what I'm told, the second sigh occurs naturally after Meat Cleaver, the third after Lost and Found, and the final sigh is after Double Pencil Sharpener (essentially the end).

We took the sneak route at Tommy's Hole and I attempted the bouf at Little Niagara. Zinger got me both days. Doug reminded me the second day that it doesn't look like much but your boat angle is important on the second wave. Kelly must've felt bad for me and all my rolls because she decided to cool off and roll at Zinger too. It was nice of her to keep me company underwater for a few seconds.

Doug said Gunbarrel would feel like a 10 foot drop - and it did. Pulling into an eddy close to boulders on the right felt a little awkward. After some thought I realized that on the Lower Yough we usually swing turns wide - like as in Rivers End - but the Upper Yough doesn't often provide that luxury.

In the calm eddy after Gunbarrel, I looked behind me and saw the intimidating rapid: Heinzerling. Looks can be deceiving because I nailed the line both days - which leads me to believe it's a little easier than it looks. Just point the nose of the boat onto the white foam and carry it around the rock - kicks you right out; be prepared for the swirly water though, gets me every time.

Remember those blind drops I mentioned? Meat Cleaver is an interesting rapid because it's all about the boat angle (are you picking up on a theme?). Bouf in the middle and make sure the right leg is up and your boat is aiming toward the right. Then, turn around and look at what's behind you. It's a lot to remember in the moment! Good thing I didn't meet the rocks on these rapids.

The second day, my angle was wrong on the bouf and I got sucked down a narrow channel on river left. Often times it's full of debris such as logs, making it a nasty sieve. Luckily, the channel was clear and I avoided getting out of my boat.

Three rapids I never heard about until I paddled the Upper Yough: Rocky I, Rocky II, and Rocky III. Each of them are progressively harder eddy-hop rapids. I rolled at these rapids a time or two. They reminded me of warm-up ruffles with a vengeance.

Lost and Found (a.k.a F*** Up Falls) is, to me, the last intimidating rapid. Day one I went over at the top right and scraped my helmet: all... the... way... down. That's the rapid that cleaned my clock. It's so shallow that in between banging my head on rocks, the camera knocked off my helmet and

started swinging into my face. My elbow pads also proved their worth. Did I mention I was upside-down? When I rolled up, the chaos didn't stop. As soon as I rolled up, I needed some power strokes to narrowly avoid other holes and rafts. The area below the rapid was busy with rafters and kayakers - as if people stuck around just to see the carnage. The only good thing about this rapid is that it's the last class IV rapid on the Upper - which is why I experienced my third sigh of relief.

Cheeseburger Falls and Backender took turns as my final insult. I made it through Cheeseburger the first day but forgot what to do the second day. If you mess up in the middle of Backender, the water pushes toward a 40-foot long rock below it. The camera died the first day, but Doug tells me my boat scraped along all forty feet of that rock before I finally rolled up.

Wright's Hole reminds me of Gap Falls because there's a giant "V" to follow all the way down - just avoid the hole. Like Wright's Hole, Double Pencil Sharpener and Luke's Final Insult weren't anything to write home about. I found the two miles of flat water - intermingled with boogie water - quite pleasant especially because I realized I paddled the Upper Yough two days in-a-row without swimming. And I've got the helmet scratches to prove it.

With the exception of a few minor bruises and scratches, the weekend went pretty well. The second day I could actually breathe and see the rapids (no tunnel vision)! I'm told I hold the record for most rolls (22) without a swim as well as the only person to roll unintentionally at Wait Rock.

August	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
8/1,2	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Doug Smith	419-823-1423
8/8	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
8/9,10	(4) TRPC Turkey Bash at Lower Yough Turkey Bash 2014 Info & Forms KHCC members same as TRPC, Deadline 8/4	23	Joe Marksz	216-281-1517 216-533-0604 C
8/7,14,21,28	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH)- 5:30-7:30PM but call Dennis first		Dennis Dukeman	330-699-2916
8/09	Portage Lakes Paddle (OH)	SK/FW	David Johnson	330-305-1565
8/14	(4) Lower Yough - Skip Work Day (PA)	23	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
8/15	(4) Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day (PA)	23	Debbie Avallone	440-835-2547
8/15,16	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-554-1383
8/16	Club Meeting at Tall Oaks		Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
8/16,17	(4) Lower Yough - permits available (PA) Call before Thursday at noon.	23	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
8/16,17	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12/SK	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
8/22,23	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
8/29,30, 9/1	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/29-9/1	Beaver River Fest (NY)	27-35	Needs organizer	



300 Central Ave.

Sandusky, OH 44870

419-627-0074

www.thevolunteercenter.com

A partner agency of The United Way

Hi!

I am writing to you from The Volunteer Center in Sandusky. We need kayakers! The Rev 3 Triathlon is coming to Cedar Point the weekend of Sept. 6th & 7th! This is an opportunity for your members to raise funds for your club & have fun at the same time...

<http://rev3tri.com/cedar-point/volunteer-5/sign-up/>

Volunteer kayakers are needed to work various shifts. Each volunteer will receive a \$15.00 donation to their club or favorite charity.

This is the 5th year we have recruited volunteers for this race and it really is fun to work it. Please let me know if any of your members are interested and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Amy Porter

Executive Director

The Volunteer Center

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

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.

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **September issue of the newsletter is **8/24/14**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com

August, 2014

