

# Keelhauler's Kanews *February, 2010*



**Next Club Meeting Saturday  
February 13th at 7 PM  
at [Fox and Hound Restaurant](#)  
1479 Som Center RD  
Mayfield Hts**

**Program: Shake away the Winter  
blues**

**Have a Dinner or order Snacks and  
beverages, kayak videos on the large  
screen.**

**Any questions? Contact [Joe Marks](#)**

**at 216-281-1517**

**All meetings are open to guests.**

**Invite a prospective member!**

## **Free weekday morning kayak training in Akron**

Outdoor Adventure Services invites you to learn to kayak in the ONAT (Ocasek Natatorium) pool, it's FREE. Open Kayaking is a weekly program that provides participants with no experience the opportunity to learn basic kayaking skills and provides a time for experienced kayakers an opportunity to refine their skills. No experience is required for this free program.

The 2010 spring semester schedule is 11am - 1pm on January: 1/19, 1/27. February: 2/4, 2/8, 2/16, 2/24 March: 3/4, 3/8, 3/23, 3/31. April: 4/8, 4/12, 4/20, 4/28.

Registration is not required; meet on the ONAT pool deck at 11am. For more information, contact Gretchen Haselbauer at 330-972-7443 or [outdoorga@uakron.edu](mailto:outdoorga@uakron.edu).

## **Holiday Paddling in Ohio**

By David Hill

In early November, I received a message from Jon Hollis who was coming into the area for the holidays. He was living in Arcata, CA and wondered about the boating opportunities he could pursue while he stayed with family in Hudson. His paddling wish list was anything between Lake Erie to the Slip, and every boating option would be a first for him since all his paddling was done after he moved from Ohio. I knew that the winter season can serve up some nice options in the local watersheds and it would give me a chance to try out some new gear.

The previously repaired crack in the 4Fun broke on my fall trip to the Lower Gauley, and I wanted to try and milk a few more trips in it before it needs replaced. The Cuyahoga can offer up tremendous surfing opportunities all winter long if you can deal with the cold. There is something about the beauty of the snow covered banks that adds to the paddling experience for me. But in order to enjoy this element, proper gear is a must.

My dry top and paddling pants had been leaking and if the 4Fun continued to take on water, winter boating would be questionable. I had been considering a dry suit for a few years since they seemed like a really nice investment if you found a good deal. The cold doesn't really bother me but being wet in the winter is just no fun at all. I liked the idea of the rear entry models and found a good deal from a private party on an Immersion Research Double D. The suit fit good and allowed me full extensions while sitting in the boat, but I was still in the house and itching to field test it. I also made some repairs to the boat so we shall see if the glue and foam patch can get me some river surfing and hopefully some soccer time in 2010. Thanks Dan for all your efforts on this new Canton venue and twist to the pool sessions.

While we didn't get a white Christmas this year, the rain was a welcome gift from Santa. The following day the temps were in the mid 40s and Jon asked about paddling. The gage for the Cuyahoga spiked on Christmas and was around 715 when we paddled on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>. We met up at the Peck Road takeout in the Chuckery Area of the Metro Parks and exchange greetings before gearing up. The rear entry on the DD is easy and allows for quick suiting up for colder days to come. Closure of the suit was not too

difficult and there are no restrictions in the front. Jon and I decided to hike up to the dam put in so I could test the breathability of the new dry suit. I was wearing light capilene with thin wool socks and had no overheating or moisture issues during the hike upstream. After hiking down to the rivers edge the relief zipper is just that and allows your to air out the suit for a tight fit before getting in your boat.

We put in river left below the dam and surfed on the waves at the first ledge. There are 3 nice features to play on and a nice elevator move but no warm up. We work our way down to the 2 new rocks above Butterfly. I've decided to name them Rocky and Bullwinkle since the first is so squirrely. The second rock has a great boof at higher levels or rock spins for the daring. Rocky and Bullwinkle have really added some spice to the section above Butterfly and should be explored by boaters. There is good eddy service on both sides of Rocky and ferry practice is entertaining due to the swirly water and surging which reminds me of the conditions below the first drop at ASCII. The back side of Bullwinkle is also surging and swirly and either side is good but the right is steeper and best for boofs at higher levels. We both run the right side of Butterfly with no issues.

We continue down through the two ledges and notice that Matt's Pin Spot is still holding wood and an orange barrel.



The large eddy on the left sets us up to play on the great surf wave below the rock. Jon is starting to get into the rhythm of the short run and is enjoying the surf. About 100 yards downstream is the large pipe remnant from the former hydroelectric plant. The ledge below the pipe is fun to run right to left and set up on the next surf wave which we both catch for a ride. The exit is a hoot as the wave sits above a nice ledge drop. The 3 Bears are no longer around and boof moves near the old power house need a bit more water. The features below the Blue Suspension bridge are fun and fast and give Jon a chance for a fish count. Both waves below the CSO are surfed and we chill as we float down to the island. The left side is getting clogged with wood and the right side slide is so much more fun anyway.



My line is decent and I can still catch the river wide wave below the slide. The surf at Peck Road was very good today. We played a bit more before calling it a day and taking out on the left. Jon was all smiles as he got his first taste of Ohio whitewater.

I was happy with the performance of the suit and the change out was fast and dry. The patch also held in the boat so the season may hold promise. A Rock is toasted at the end of the trip and Jon and I make plans to paddle again while we have water.

On Sunday, Craig and Jon J. agree to get on the water so plans are made to meet at the Oxbow Area of the Metro Parks at 11 with the flow about 700 on the USGS. Unlike yesterdays hike to the putin, today will be a trip in the pimp shuttle to the top of Clifton Ave. After a minor delay to get forgotten gloves (it is nice living close by) we begin the Class V descent to the river. It is a bit colder today and around 35 but I went with the same gear set up.

At the river everyone is surfing the 3 put in waves. Being warmed up from yesterday and feeling comfortable in my dry suit I'm surfing hard from the start. At Rocky we are having fun when I catch an edge and count fish through Bullwinkle. The cold water is a shock, but I roll up just in time for the water to leave my eyes and the brain freeze to set in as I drop into Butterfly. Gotta love winter paddling when that dry suit is keeping me bone dry, warm, and most importantly comfortable paddling in the cold.

The three of us continue to surf everything this river has to offer, and for a short run, there is a bunch to enjoy. The calm water to the lower take out lets us reflect on another day enjoyed in the gorge and ponder questions like "why is the overlook still closed due to safety reasons?"

Speaking of safety issues, Jon provided an impromptu meeting at the take out where discussions of knots and rope setups were enjoyed by us and the rogue ranger who drove by.

The weather definitely took a turn at the end of 2009 and cold temperatures with blowing winds kept the freshly fallen snow on the ground. New Years Eve celebrations were kept in check and a late night text confirmed that Jon H. was up for a New Years Day paddle.



We agreed to meet at noon and the level had dropped to about 500 cfs on the USGS gage. The weather was definitely cold with temps in the low 20s. I switched my layers to light weight fleece pants and a thick skin top under the dry suit and opted to gear up at home. We also decided to hike in and the snow will allow us to effortlessly drag the boats along the trail. The looks from the other hikers we passed on the trail were priceless! The descent down to the river is getting interesting with the snow.

The features were definitely smaller today with less water and some spots are getting shallow. Jon also had some experience from his previous trip down and was able to play more today. Even with the reduced flow there was still a lot of surfing to be enjoyed which we did all the way to the take out. So far the boat patch is holding up and the dry suit is performing well so winter boating looks promising. After enjoying a 12 Dogs of Christmas Ale we loaded up to head off towards pork and sauerkraut celebrations.

Jon was surprised by the amount of surfing available on this short run and is looking forward to more paddling when he returns in March.

Remember to get your 2010 permits from Metro Parks and go get yourself some winter surfing in the gorge.

Yes it's that time again to encourage filing for a permit to support paddling interest on the Cuyahoga gorge. Filing a permit costs nothing but a stamp.

Go to KHCC conservation page:  
<http://www.keelhauler.org/conservation/>  
 and see more stories and videos.

Download and print a permit for 2010:  
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/MetroPermit.pdf>

See how to fill it out:  
<http://keelhauler.org/images/SpecUseKayak.jpg>

See for Park Info:  
<http://www.summitmetroparks.org/Activities/Kayaking.aspx>



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The 2010 **Webster Wildwater Weekend** River Festival will take place **April 10 & 11, 2010** in Webster County, WV. Events include river races and fun floats on area rivers. Camp Caesar (304-226-3888) will again be the site of the after-race party Saturday evening...where paddlers and friends can enjoy live music, race videos and more around a blazing, indoor bonfire. The downriver race features plenty of whitewater action on the class II-III Elk River and is a USA Wildwater Junior Olympics Qualifying race. This portion of the Elk River, with almost continuous rapids, is a great run for experienced paddlers, but with plenty of safety boaters on hand; novices will enjoy competing as well. Trophies are awarded in several categories and dozens of prizes are given away. For additional information call 304 847-2145 or 304 847-7653 (evenings); send us an email at [wcd@websterwv.com](mailto:wcd@websterwv.com) or visit our web site: [www.websterwv.com/whitewater.html](http://www.websterwv.com/whitewater.html)

*Geary Weir*

*Co - Director*

*Webster Wildwater Weekend*

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## 68 Reasons You Know You're a Paddler ... From Philadelphia Canoe Club - Katie Smalley

1. Your Mom has stopped saying "be careful this weekend".
2. "Waterproof" only means "a little damp" or "might-float".
3. Your friends or relatives are shocked when you answer the phone at home on a weekend.
4. Houseguests ask where you got the wooden paddle from.
5. You can't drive over a bridge without looking for water under it.
6. The smell of old polypro doesn't bother you.

7. Driving 800 miles for a weekend on a river or a lake doesn't seem strange to you.

8. Your idea of a complete first aid kit is a roll of duct tape.

9. You use a river trip to wash sand and seaweed from your boat.

10. You choose a new car based on whether or not your rack system will fit it.

11. A dress shirt and tie no longer bother you, because they're looser than a drysuit neck gasket.

12. The sight of a person in a tight rubber suit doesn't seem kinky.

13. You have ever gotten frostbitten and sunburned on the same day.

14. You know which leaves make good toilet paper.

15. You're all dressed up and don't notice that you're being rained on.

16. Every once in a while you touch your paddle, just to touch it.

17. You've never set up a tent when it's light out.

18. You have friends that you don't recognize without their PFD, paddling jacket, and spray skirt.

19. Your dog loves to roll in your pile of paddling clothes.

20. You can ID make and model on a car topped kayak at a quarter mile.

21. All career, personal and financial decisions are judged by the criteria of, "How will this increase my paddling time?"

22. You build a two-car garage addition and you still can't park your car inside.

23. You find yourself humming Weather Channel tunes.

24. You change oil in the campground in the evening because you haven't had a weekend home in so long and you can't afford to pay to have it done.

25. You've lost count of the number of boats you have in your garage or back yard.

26. You've gone boating in conditions where you normally wouldn't go outside.

27. You've toyed with the idea of just leaving your boat and gear loaded on your vehicle. (You've toyed with the idea?!?!?)

28. When you hear about a guy in a skirt you think nothing of it.

29. You divide your life into workdays and kayaking days.

30. You're talking paddling to non-paddlers and not realizing when they've glazed over with boredom or left the room.

31. All your rendezvous and evenings out on the town start/end by meeting with your friends at the river.

32. You start thinking seriously about building a paddle pool in your backyard.

33. After a car wreck, the first thing you check for is damage to your boat.

34. You have a huge plastic storage tub that rides in the back seat to hold your wet clothes.

35. You "pour over" streamflow readings the way a stockbroker scans the markets every day.

36. You practically salivate at the sound of rainfall.

37. There's no room on your speed-dial for anything but gauge readings and the numbers of people with nicknames like Psycho.

38. "Small craft advisories" make you praise the Ocean gods.

39. Window shade means more than keeping the sun out.

40. Pearl means more than a gem in a shell.

41. You co-workers (and non-boating friends, family and your spouse) will not ride in your vehicle between March and October because of the ode de polypro.

42. The sight of a waterfall gives you the uncontrollable urge to urinate in a nearby bush- while you search out the line...

43. You call your buddies in order of shuttle ability.

44. Your boat is worth more than your car.

45. Even in the dead of winter, you never actually lose the PFD tan lines...

46. You already have several kayaks and are trying to convince your spouse that you really need another one.

47. You build your new house as close as possible to the flood plain.

48. You always have sinus congestion on Monday morning..

49. The only thing you worry about when getting naked just about \*anywhere\* is whether or not you'll get a ticket!

50. You ask the clerk at Eaton's how well these dress shoes hold up to immersion.

51. You measure major purchases relative to the cost of a new boat...('Hmmm, that new computer will cost me about 2 1/2 kayak units')

52. You're the one with the Bright Sunny Smile on the Cold Rainy Day.

53. Every once in a while you let go of your paddle, just to eat something.

54. You have no trouble saying "Rotomolded Crosslink Polyethylene" ten times fast.

55. You have a bathing suit that's wet from March to October.

56. You start driving around with your PFD and helmet on because you have noticed that other drivers tend to give you the right of way.

57. You've tied up your mate using either a taught-line or trucker's hitch.

58. You can't look at water in a gutter without imagining tiny runs and miniature waves and holes.

59. "Wet, sticky hole" and "blowing a ferry" in casual conversation don't give you pause..

60. You freely discuss how much you and others weigh, and don't feel self-conscious about it (or about asking others how much they weigh).

61. Your only considerations when buying a car are ground clearance, and the size of the rain gutters.

62. You feel all mushy inside when your wife gives you a drytop for Christmas.

63. You visit Niagara Falls and think "This may be runnable."

64. You deliberately watch the whole commercial just to see the kayak on the car...

65. You maneuver your car on five-lane streets by eddying out behind trucks and making S-moves in the left turn lane. And you lean into the turns.

66. If you live in a town with a river running through it, you give street directions with descriptions like "upstream of the ..." or "two blocks down on river left ..."

67. It takes longer and longer to get your "land legs" back. Solid ground "feels funny"

68. You keep moving the car seat forward, so you can bend your knees and feel good and wedged in for pulling maneuvers on the freeway.

<b>February</b>		<a href="#">Top of Page</a>		
1/30 or 31 2/27 or 28 3/13 or 14	(4) Cuyahoga Gorge or Sheraton Section (OH) Location depends on water level, participant's skills See <a href="#">Cuyahoga Info</a> for level and trip details A close to home WW training experience	16-29	<a href="#">Mike Larkin</a> <a href="#">Dave Hill</a>	216-486-4833 330-221-0270
2/6	<a href="#">Ohiopyle Winterfest</a>		<a href="#">Jim Hunt</a>	330-335-5203
2/6,13,20,27	<a href="#">KH Roll Session</a> at <b>Orange</b> pool		<a href="#">Judi Fordyce</a>	440-289-5511
2/13	Club Meeting at <a href="#">Fox &amp; Hound Restaurant</a> - 7 PM Mayfield Hts		<a href="#">Joe Marksz</a>	216-281-1517
2/6,20,27	<a href="#">KH Roll Session</a> at <b>Lakewood</b> pool		<a href="#">Judi Fordyce</a>	440-289-5511
2/26,27	<a href="#">National Paddling Film Fest</a> (KY)		<a href="#">Michael Duvall</a>	216-521-0094
<b>March</b>		<a href="#">Top of Page</a>		
3/6,13,20,27	<a href="#">KH Roll Session</a> at <b>Lakewood</b> pool		<a href="#">Judi Fordyce</a>	440-289-5511
3/6,13	<a href="#">KH Roll Session</a> at <b>Orange</b> pool		<a href="#">Judi Fordyce</a>	440-289-5511
3/6, 7	(2) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Dan Glomb</a>	330-268-4350
3/6,13,20,27	<a href="#">Fundamentals of Kayaking</a> at <b>Rocky River</b> High School Saturdays - 12:00-3:00 PM		<a href="#">Ernie Anderson</a>	216-431-3076
3/7,14,21,28	<a href="#">Fundamentals of Kayaking</a> at <b>Lakewood</b> High School Sundays - 4:30 - 7:30PM		<a href="#">Ernie Anderson</a>	216-431-3076
3/09	Club Monthly <a href="#">Meeting</a>		<a href="#">Joe Marksz</a>	216-281-1517
3/13	(1) Rocky River or other local (OH)	8-17	<a href="#">Pat Guzowski</a>	216-780-5734
3/13 or 14 3/27 or 28 4/2 or 5	(4) Cuyahoga Gorge or Sheraton Section (OH) Location depends on water level, participant's skills See <a href="#">Cuyahoga Info</a> for level and trip details A close to home WW training experience	16-29	<a href="#">Mike Larkin</a> <a href="#">Dave Hill</a>	216-486-4833 330-221-0270
3/20	WV Class IV-IV+	28-32	<a href="#">Jeff Macklin</a>	724-331-7873
3/21	(1) Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Hank Annable</a>	440-775-4953
3/27, 28	WV Class V Creeking	>30	<a href="#">John Garcia</a> <a href="#">Brent Laubaugh</a>	216-210-7544 724-272-6944
3/28	(1) <a href="#">Vermilion Race</a> (OH); Alternate Date 4/11	SK/FW	<a href="#">Patty Hammond</a> - registration <a href="#">Cliff Wire</a> -Chair	216-292-5618 440-439-6541

## 2010 Club Officers

President: Cliff Wire 440-439-6541  
VP: Michael Duvall 216-521-0094  
Secretary: Pat Guzowski 216-780-5734  
Treasurer: Terry Markoff 440-543-4969

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**

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. Call or mail before the last Saturday of each month. 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 March issue of the newsletter is **2/21/10**.  
Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com) or [peetzaguy@comcast.net](mailto:peetzaguy@comcast.net).

**KeelHauler Kanews**  
**Kelly Miller, Editor**  
**1515 Fox Chase Dr.**  
**Sewickley, PA 15143**  
[peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)  
**February, 2010**

