

Keelhauler's Ka-news

 **FEBRUARY, 2015**



Next Club Get-Together

is on February 21st
at the [Fox & Hound Restaurant](#) in Mayfield Hts
after the Orange Roll session at 6:30 PM.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Karl Nelson



How are those New Year's resolutions going for you? Have you worked off the Thanksgiving dinner and all the Christmas goodies or did you need to buy a new belt? Or more importantly when you go to the river in a couple of months, will you be able to zip that PFD?

The Board met on a cold winter night to discuss the upcoming year. Pam had a budget for us to consider. We had to purchase new medals for the Vermilion Race. Generally we re-load every three years or so in order to get the volume discount.

Dave Roush has been working at contacting various organizations that provide paddling instruction. He was pleasantly surprised to find there are a plethora of organizations that provide a wealth of instructional opportunities. These were primarily instruction for sea kayaking, rec kayaking and SUP. It is apparent that KHCC does not to create de novo an instructional program. We just need to be prepared to identify graduates of such programs and extend an invitation to them.

KHCC needs someone to:

1. Make the KHCC known to the various instruction programs (e.g., e-mail newsletter to instruction programs; personal contact with instruction programs to distribute brochure etc.);
2. Make the Slip Clinic / Turkey Bash know to those interested in whitewater instruction; and
3. Put these opportunities on the Instruction page of the KHCC website

John Kobak, our membership chair, reported that for the last 8 years our membership has stayed fairly constant at 305 ± 5 in December. We pick up about 60 new members each year and lose some members that have simply quit paddling, died or moved too far away. We also lose some because there are not any sea kayaking or flat-water trips on the trip schedule. The KHCC needs someone to organize sea kayaking or flat-water trips.

Bill Barrow (bill.barrow@yahoo.com) of the Early Settlers Association is looking for a few good canoeists to participate in this summer's celebration of Cleveland's birthday at Settlers' Landing. They want to stage a reenactment of Moses Cleaveland's surveying party coming ashore. He is looking for canoeists to help get the surveying party safely ashore.

Vermilion River Clean Up By Jon Reising

March 15 2015

Meet at Schoepfle Gardens, Lorain County Metro Park in Birmingham Ohio at 10:00 and help with the clean-up of the Vermilion River for the canoe race the following weekend.

Trip leader Jon Reising 1-440-967-9507

47th Annual Vermilion River Race

March 22 2015

15 Classes will be available

Please call race chair Jon Reising to offer to help put on this annual race.

Just a few hours on Sunday will help the race be done well.

Trip leader Jon Reising 1-440-967-9507 Vermilion Race Website with all forms

Keelhaulers Canoe Club Treasurer's Report 18---January---2015 By Pam Poljak

CDs (3)	\$6,771.33
Checking	\$9,067.66
Total	\$15,838.99

Keelhauler's Canoe Club, Proposed Budget FY 2015 By Pam Poljak

Category Description	FY 2014 Actuals	FY 2015 Budget
ASSETS		
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$ 5,312.46	\$ 5,906.02
CD (3) balance at start of FY	\$ 6,763.61	\$ 6,771.33
INCOME		
Conservation	\$ 40.00	\$ -
Dues	\$ 5,024.00	\$ 5,200.00
Reservations*	\$ 68.00	\$ 68.00
Vermilion Race	\$ 849.00	\$ 900.00
Pool session deposit refund	\$ 84.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,065.00	\$ 6,168.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 18,141.07	\$ 18,845.35
LIABILITIES		
EXPENSE		
Conservation Donations	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,250.00
Internet Access	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Internet Domain	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
Marketing	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Library	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Meeting Hall	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -
Postage & Supply	\$ 201.00	\$ 250.00
Refreshments	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Vermilion Race**	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,720.00
Yearbook Expense	\$ 1,822.00	\$ 1,900.00
Yough Reservations	\$ 240.00	\$ -
Special Donation	\$ 75.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 5,561.00	\$ 7,418.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 12,580.07	\$ 11,427.35

* FY 2015 budget reservation income was recovered in 2014, but not submitted to Treasurer until after FY2014 Books closed.

**Includes expense for purchase of medals (\$1020.00) for the next three years.

CONSERVATION DONATIONS

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Budget
American Whitewater	\$ 575.00	\$ 600.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
American Rivers	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00
River Network	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Portage Park District	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$ -	\$ 150.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,250.00

Swimming Showers Rapid on the Stonycreek River By Matt Fredmonsky



I managed to drag my Karma large to an eddy but had to rely on the kindness of strangers to recover my paddle.

This blog lately has trended in pairs. I would write a post about a topic, and then the issue naturally expanded into a second post with time.

So when I wrote a post titled "[The Swim](#)" I should have known better what I was setting myself up for. Shortly after publishing that little gem I took a trip with some friends to make the last whitewater release from the Quemahoning Reservoir near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for some Class III+ action on the [Stonycreek River Canyon](#).

We piled in the van, hooked up the trailer and set out at zero-dark-thirty, or maybe it was 6:30 am. Whatever, it was dark when we started our three-hour journey east into the Appalachian foothills. Most of us hadn't been in our boats for a few months because we haven't had enough water for local paddling here in Northeast Ohio.

Feeling more than rusty, I squeezed into my [Kokatat Hydrus 3L](#) and hiked up from the "easy" put-in to the drop in just above Showers Rapid--the only Class III+ rapid we would experience that day.

The rest of our compatriots were running shuttle, and so about a dozen of us had ample time to run Showers a few times if we were feeling up to it. The rapid offers almost a half dozen points to scout it from, including a few rocks right on the river's edge mid-rapid. I remember thinking "piece of cake." Stale, moldy one-year-old freezer burnt wedding cake.

I put in with another long-boating friend, and we ferried across the river using some eddies to try and break free of two months worth of rust. I watched a few people line up, drop and disappear into the first tongue of the rapid. It looked easy enough. All I had to do was try and stay to the left and miss the muching hole topped by a curling cross wave at river right.

Just as I lined up to drop in I felt my 4 a.m. wake-up that morning and about two months worth of paddling rust seize my hips, shoulders and eyelids. I made the first drop easy enough but was pointing too far river left while moving way too much toward river right. I dropped into the second hole nearly sideways. It was too easy for that wave to spin me like a window shade. Instead of bracing, I thought "flip and roll." Splash! Upside down and my face freezing, I remember thinking "set up for your roll, dumbass." The frigid water, bulky dry suit and aforementioned oxidation laughed off my meager roll attempt, and I pulled the rip cord. I hadn't had to swim out of my boat in months.

Fortunately, my long-boating friend and his LiquidLogic road cone were parked in an eddy where I managed to swim, dragging my 103-gallon volume kayak behind me.

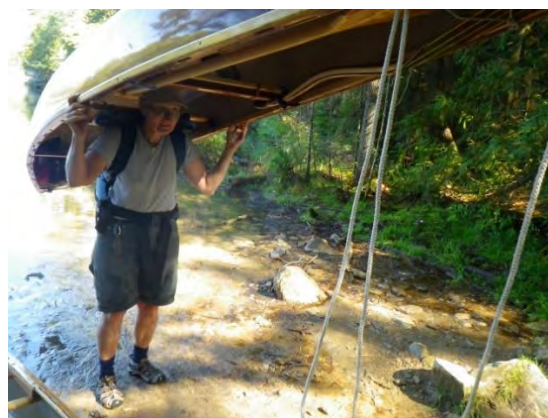
The rest of the paddle, for me at least, was seamless. More than a few paddlers told me that had Showers been in the middle of Stonycreek Canyon I would have cruised through it. Next time!

Algonquin Revisited: September 2014

By Lisa Brand

Prologue: July, 2014, five of us went to Algonquin Park, Ontario, on a canoe trip. (See previous trip report in Keelhaulers newsletter 11/2014.) Afterwards, some of us thought of nothing else but ... Come mid September, and two of us were off again!

Intrepid paddlers: Lisa Brand and Sue Taft



September 2014: The Park was quiet in the aftermath of a week of being blasted by cold and wind and rain. Did I say quiet? Well, not really. The squirrels were hard at work chattering and gathering pinecones for the winter. The otters were splashing and playing; the owls were hooting; the woodpeckers were pecking; the martens were racing through the trees barking their halloos; the moose were rutting; and the loons were calling to us. So of course, we had to return.

When we arrived the Park was alive with a cacophony of sounds, smells and color. And bears. When we checked in at the warden station we were warned to keep our campsite clear of any exposed food or garbage. Bears were on the prowl. This tweaked our anxiety but hardly worried the songbirds that were singing with full force and darting from tree to tree. Trees were displaying their most vibrant colors, the leaves a feast for our eyes: maroon, scarlet, orange, yellow and purple. The weather had warmed and it was a wonderful sunny day but the water was definitely nippy. I pulled on my knee-high neoprene NRS expedition boots. No wet feet for me! Sue, being a bit more rugged, grabbed her Keene sandals and a pair of wool socks.

We set out, each of us paddling solo in one of Sue's beautiful lightweight wood strip handmade canoes. We put in at Magnetawan Lake with two modest portages ahead of us to reach our destination: the sprawling Ralph Bice Lake. I was eager to use my new double bent shaft paddle. It takes a different sort of finesse to manage it compared to a straight shaft. Uh oh. Finesse. I really hadn't

quite acquired that just yet. It was slow going. So in frustration I finally abandoned it that first day, taking up my old trusty straight shaft for the sake of getting to our campsite before nightfall.

I did promise myself that I would practice every day thereafter with the double bent shaft until I was able to paddle with pride instead of apology. Sue's patience with me as I subsequently inched along was insurmountable, and her instruction was invaluable. Her excellent sense of direction came in handy too, as the 30 year old compass I had brought along simply fell apart from old age on the second day of our trip.

I managed a quick freezing cold swim that first day late in the afternoon, hoping to grab the last of the sun's rays for warmth when I emerged, shivering. The day was almost gone. But there was no shortage of magnificent night attractions. Every evening the night sky was surreal. The milky way splashed across it in all its pale ivory iridescent glory, and the sky was alive with thousands... millions... trillions of twinkling stars and shooting stars. The stars were mirrored in the lake, making us feel as if we were suspended, floating somewhere in between heaven and earth.

The crystal clear nights made for a quick drop in temperature so early every night we'd head for the warmth of our sleeping bags, and I, my thermal underwear. Sue, being much more hardy, settled for just her skivvies. But maybe that's too much information. Once we were settled in the tent, the meek mice that had played hide and seek with us, ducking behind rocks while we ate our dinner, emerged as bold Mighty Mouses. They scurried up one side of the tent then wheeeee!!! they slid down the other side as if they were at some nocturnal rodent rodeo.



Just before dawn the red squirrels went on the attack. They climbed the tallest trees and shook down pinecones, which fell on our tent by the dozens, sounding like gunshots when they hit the tent poles. Then at breakneck speed the squirrels came hurtling out of the trees, chattering their complaints and collecting the fallen pinecones. They quickly carried them off, the pinecones sticking straight out of their mouth like some big stogie, clenched between their sharp little teeth. They

scurried away, adding them to their secret hidden caches for winter. Then they promptly returned to collect more loot. Their little paws and silly scrunched up squirrely faces were comically blackened with pine pitch and dirt with bits of leaves and all sorts of woody debris glued to the pitch at odd angles and flapping about. They entertained us every morning, and every morning we had the urge to grab them and give them all a good scrubbing.

One day, just before the break of dawn, we had a rare acoustic experience. It was moose rutting season. The long, low but very loud, plaintive wailing of a cow moose echoed across the entire lake valley, attracting the frenzied response of a bull moose in love. Correction: a bull moose in lust. We heard him stamping and thrashing through the water, and subsequently we heard a few magnificent male moose grunts, which made it perfectly clear just what x-rated antics were taking place in mother nature's red light district down the road.

The next days were spent in blissful activity: collecting firewood; chopping, sawing and stacking wood; paddling; hiking; cooking over the campfire; reading; napping; and swimming- in numbing freezing water! And every day we watched loons with their young. The babies probably hatched in late summer and were unable to fly south with the rest of the mature flock so the mamas stayed behind to protect and supervise them, and more importantly, to regale us with their crazy, lovely loon songs.

Loons were not our only feathered friends. Our survey for the week included Canada geese, black-capped chickadees, spruce grouse, gulls, juncos, mergansers, red-breasted nuthatches, ospreys, barred owls, ravens, robins, sparrows, Swainson's thrushes and woodpeckers. (Sue is the bird aficionado. I am just a bird brain; in training.)

On our last day, as we paddled to the take-out, we heard martens screaming and barking. We caught a flash of their small dark weasel-like bodies as they raced across branches from tree to tree. Soon afterwards we observed three otters swimming, splashing, and playing on some rocks. They put on quite the show. Then we discovered the perfect "people rocks" where we stopped to swim, splash and play. Unlike the otters, our aquatic activities included biodegradable soap, which rendered us fit for civilization again. Not that we were eager. Nonetheless, thoroughly scrubbed and squeaky clean, we hopped back in our canoes. After a short paddle we approached the take-out and were soon loading the car. On the drive home we began planning our trip for next year.



Free KHCC 2015 Photo Wall Calendar & Schedule

Have you ever wanted a Keel-Hauler wall calendar with our yearbook pictures, but in color, and our 2015 trip schedule?

All you need is a color printer and follow the instructions carefully.

Go to this link and follow the instructions carefully. You print on both sides of the paper but don't use a 2 sided printer since the back side is printed upside down from first side. Enjoy our [2015 Folding Wall Calendar](#)

2015 Yearbook

The new 100 page Yearbook & Roster should be arriving soon. It comes by third class bulk mail which sometimes takes a while. If you don't get one, call or e-mail Michael Duvall who should have a few extra copies. MichaelDuvall66@att.net (216) 513-5921. Members can read the whole yearbook on-line at this link. You can print any pages you want.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/KHCCYearbook2015.pdf>

February				
2/1,8,15,22	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 -10:45 AM		Jeff Cramer	330-245-6252
2/7	Ohiopyle Winterfest & Paddle the (4) Loop (PA)	23	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
2/7, 21	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
2/14,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
2/21	Club Get-Together at the Fox & Hound Restaurant in Mayfield Hts after the Orange Roll session at 6:30 PM, everyone welcome.		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
March				
3/7,8	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
3/7,14	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
3/10	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
3/14-22	Southern Rivers - TN, NC	22-32	Dave Herron	513-681-4075
3/15	(1) Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
3/15	(3) Cuyahoga River, Upper or Lower Gorge (OH) Water Level dependent	20-28	Needs organizer	
3/21	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Dave Roush	440-623-9035
3/22	(1) Vermilion Race (OH) - Alternate Date 3/29	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
3/28,29	WV Class V Creeking	>30	John Garcia Brent Laubaugh	440-777-6077 724-272-6944

We have a great group of people that regularly organize trips, but **we need more people to step up!** Please let me know if there is any river and any date that you would be able to organize next year.

Thanks! April, apstylehollis@gmail.com or 703-915-6382.

2015 Club Officers

President: Karl Nelson 330-497-2483
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

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

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 **March issue of the newsletter is **2/20/15**. 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

February, 2015

