

Keelhauler's Ka-news

FEBRUARY, 2018



Our Next Club Get-Together is on February 21st.

Location: The Brick House Tavern

Brickhousetavernandtap.com

581 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

(330) 920-6244

Time to be announced.

Topics: Upcoming Club Activities

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 and happy 2018 my fellow KeelHaulers.

I do hope that you are all getting excited for another fabulous paddling season. The weather has been very favorable (at times) so I'm sure quite a few of us have already been out once or

twice. Or more. I haven't paddled outside as much as I have hoped to. But I am living vicariously through those of you who are. So please keep it up.

I'd like to start off by thanking all of you who have been coming to the roll sessions. Either Orange, Lakewood, or Canton. Canton Sundays have been a constant flow of many new and old faces each week. I am super happy to see all of the ladies taking advantage of the indoor practice time. You ladies rock. I'm super pleased to see the new young little rippers getting in on the action, too.

We have lots of club trips and activities coming up in the next few months. So, I think it is time to schedule another meeting. Please mark down Wednesday February 21st on your calendar. I really like the venue at Brick House Tavern for our meeting, so the plan is to have it there. Burger, beer, and well-run club discussions. Topics needing attention are the Vermilion Race, trip Schedule, the Cuyahoga Falls race, and more club functions and ideas to draw more club interest. You know, the usual stuff. I think our meetings are fantastic. I'm sure those who attend will agree fully. I ask that those who have not been to one in some time to try and make it.

Lastly, I'd like to wish paddler Ryan Flick all the best and for a speedy recovery. Ryan is a young and skilled local Ohio paddler who was in a terrible accident. He was out a few weeks back on Tinkers Creek with other paddlers, including a few KeelHaulers. While making a portage, he was struck by a train. But by the grace of the paddling gods, he survived and is recovering. Let's all say a little personal prayer and wish him well. On the flip side of this horrible accident, Ryan will always have a paddling story that trumps all others. So, kudos Ryan. And get well soon.

Just a few thank yous before I leave you. They are always important, and you folks deserve the recognition. I truly thank all of the long-standing club members who continue to show us young bucks (yeah, I'm a young 41) how it's done. We appreciate your trip leading skills and knowledge we only pretend to have. Thank you to the current board and officers. Without you I'd screw everything up. We need you. Shoot, I need you. Lol. You are the engine that keeps driving this club.

Lastly, a thank you to KeelHauler members for being part of this fantastic club. It is what you make it to be. I crave your club thought and interest on how to make it better. I want us all to have the best time we can, while we can. Always consider becoming a trip leader, a club officer, or wonderful steward of our love for all things paddling. Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you.

I hope to see many of you in a few weeks. And for all else, I hope to see you on the water.

All the best,

John Banach
President

**Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Monthly Treasurer's Report
January 24, 2018**

CD 0402	\$2, 291.18
CD 1077	<u>\$2, 288.74</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4, 579.92
Checking	<u>\$22, 377.38</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$26, 957.30</u>

Conservation and Yearbook Checks will be written before next month's report.

**Mark Your Calendars...
The 50th Annual Vermilion Race
By Jon Reising**

March 25th 2018: 50th Annual Vermilion River Canoe and Kayak Race.

Sponsored by the Keel Haulers Canoe Club. Race will start at 10:30 a.m. at Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham unless river conditions do not allow it. This is 7.8 mile race down to Mill Hollow Metro Parks. There are 15 different class to race in.

It takes about 25 people to put the race on and it will be greatly appreciated if you could come and help put on the last Vermilion River Race. Yes, this will be the last year that the club will be doing this. For all of those that have been members for decades why not come and say hello to Hank A, Carl & Donna H, Jim B, Marcia K, John K, Bob B, Phillip T and all the rest of us that have given time to put this on for what will be the 50th time.

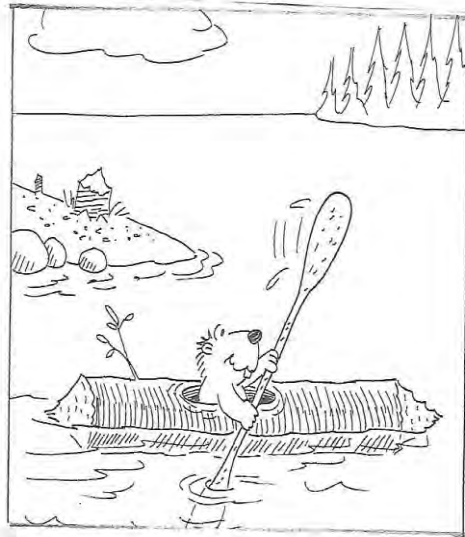
Contact Jon Reising for more information 1-440-967-9507 or mnmsguy@yahoo.com

Just a reminder....The 50th Annual Vermilion River race is going to be advertised as the final year. If there are any club members that seriously want to take over being race chair and all the responsible of organizing, timing, scoring and so on please let contact either Hank Annable 440-775-4953 or Jon Reising 440-967-9507 .

50th Annual Keel-Haulers

Vermilion River Canoe & Kayak Race

Sunday March 25th 2018



March 25th 2018: 50th Annual Vermilion River Canoe and Kayak Race. Sponsored by the Keel Haulers Canoe Club. Race will start at 10:30 a.m. at Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham unless river conditions do not allow it. This is a 7.8 mile race down to Mill Hollow Metro Park. There are 15 different class to race in. If you have ever wanted to participate in this race this is the year as this is the last year this will be put on.

Registration opens @ 9:00 a.m.

Schoepfle Gardens, Birmingham Ohio

Further Information contact

1-440-986-0822 or mnmsguy@yahoo.com

Good News for the New River Dries From Jim Hunt

Decision Reached On Restoration Of The New River Dries! (WV)

January 5, 2018 by Kevin Colburn - AW



River enthusiasts will soon have new paddling opportunities on West Virginia's New River. Federal regulators issued a new 47-year license for the dam that dewateres the spectacular 5.5-mile New River Dries in the final days of 2017. The license requires significant new recreational and environmental enhancements in a river reach that has suffered from water withdrawals for well over half a century. American Whitewater played an active and leading role in securing these outcomes. The hallmarks of the new federal license include:

Increases in the minimum stream flow from 100cfs to flows ranging from 150 to 300cfs depending on the season. While a small increase, this measure will significantly increase the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat.

- Nine new scheduled whitewater releases each year: two in March and seven in July and August. These flows will offer scenic Class III+ paddling opportunities and restore important natural flow variability that will benefit river organisms.
- A new 1-3 day online flow prediction service for the Dries, as well as ongoing funding of a stream gage. This measure will help paddlers take advantage of the nearly 80 days annually when sufficient water spills over the dam to support paddling, and improve safety for all visitors to the Dries.

- River access improvements at the Cotton Hill Bridge put in, which will serve as the primary put in and trailhead for paddlers.
- A new portage trail around the Hawks nest Dam, which will allow paddlers to launch upstream at the confluence of Mill Creek and portage into the Dries.
- A new public take out to meet the long-term recreational needs of paddlers.

The dam owner is required to consult with American Whitewater and outfitters and submit formal plans for providing releases and access within six months. Releases are to begin immediately upon approval of the plans by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, likely in 2019. As with any federal decision, appeals could cause delays.

American Whitewater sought significant improvements on this beautiful stretch of river at every stage of the multi-year relicensing effort. This effort was made extremely challenging because a nearby alloy manufacturing plant relies upon the unusual frequency of power the dam generates. When the State of West Virginia mandated only three whitewater releases we appealed, and secured an additional six days of releases in the state permit. Unfortunately, under intense political pressure to keep the New River dry by federal lawmakers, the FERC chose not to require releases in addition to those required by the state. If someday the alloy plant no longer needs the power, the flow regime will be reconsidered.

While not the grander outcome we had hoped for, the new license will usher in a new and much better era on the New River Dries. Paddlers will enjoy nine new releases, improved access, and much better flow information. Summer releases will likely draw intermediate paddlers from around the region, and paddlers will take advantage of spring flows more often. The higher base flows and pulse flows should be great for aquatic health and the fishing should improve. There will be improved hiking opportunities, and climbers will enjoy the new access areas too. American Whitewater staff will be actively involved in the planning for releases over the next year and beyond. Thanks to all the paddlers who got involved in this project and who supported our work on it. And a special thank you to Bobby Bower who spoke up for the river's commercial rafting potential. See you all on the river!

**2018 KHCC Yearbook
From Jim Hunt**

The Yearbook is complete and is at the printer. Thanks to all who submitted photos and other input. I expect you will see the Yearbook in your mailbox during the last two weeks of February.

Please remember that the yearbook is mailed bulk rate and will not be forwarded to any other address. So, e-mail John Kobak at keelhauler@yahoo.com if your correct new address is not current with the club.

Jim Hunt, Yearbook Editor

**Ohiopyle Upcoming Proposed Changes
From Janice Matthew**

The plan for changes at Ohiopyle (21 pages) can be found at www.spcregion.org. Paddlers should read this! Enter into the search "sr 381 pedestrian access and safety improvements".

**Save the Date – Paddle for Heroes
From Moneen McBride**

Paddle For Heroes will be hosting a fundraiser at Ariel-Foundation Park in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Address is 10 Pittsburgh Ave., Mount Vernon. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise approximately \$30,000 for a handicapped accessible kayak launch at the park. The launch will help those with disabilities, including seniors, children and others that have physical limitations get back in the water. The afternoon will be filled with live music from Adam Taylor, Kokosing River Surf Club, and Six Miles To Nellie. Food will be provided by Trucking Delicious, and local craft beer and wine will be available. There will be several guest speakers from area veteran's organizations. Tickets are \$20.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paddle-for-heroes-benefit-tickets-42162684725>

**Be Aware of Your Paddling Environment
By Matt Fredmonsky**

Unfortunately, it's a sad commentary on the United States that our American rivers and their watersheds are some of the most polluted areas of our country.

Fortunately, there are smart, caring and dedicated people who are working to restore our nation's waterways. Because combined sewer overflows and polluted former mine sites, like in two of our club's most popular paddling destinations, remain cause for concern when it comes to the water quality of our paddling environments.

Whether we're a day-tripper, weekend warrior or own a getaway cabin, we should care about the environments we visit to paddle in as much as the people who live their year-round. At the very least, we should stay educated and up-to-date about happenings in our paddling communities.

Here are two recent developments in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, home to Stonycreek and the annual Stonycreek Rendezvous, and Minden, West Virginia, which is nestled on the edge of the New River Gorge.

[This Town is So Toxic, They Want it Wiped Off the Map](#)

Polluted, closed mine site leaks toxins into tributary of New River in West Virginia.



A fall day on the New River. Photo credit: Jeff Macklin



Paddlers below Showers Rapid on the Stonycreek during the 2017 StonyFest. Photo credit: Jeff Macklin

[For Cash-Strapped Johnstown, Sewer System Overhaul Comes with Hefty Costs](#)

Economically stressed community struggles to pay for sewer improvements to address water quality.

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

February				
2/3	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
2/3,17	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Matt Demaline	216-529-4081
2/4,11,18,25	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 - 10:45 AM		John Banach	330-606-5032
2/10	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Jimi Gaddis	567-215-1390

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

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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.

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the MARCH, 2018 issue of the newsletter is 2/23/18. Please send articles to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

KeelHauler Kanews
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Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com
FEBRUARY, 2018

