

Keelhauler's Ka-news JULY, 2014



Next Club Meeting: Tuesday July 8th at Silver Lake

between Akron & Kent, OH

Program: Outdoor Meeting: Paddling & Pot Luck Picnic

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the lake, kayaks can try roll practice. Bring your kids and bathing suits for the beach. Come any time after 5 PM. We will serve the picnic dinner from 7-7:30 pm. We can use the lake until about 8:30 pm. Additionally, there will be our annual race around the island. Try out someone else's boat or windsurfer.

Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name:

A-E: Potato or Macaroni Salad

F-L: Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

M-R: Chips or Appetizer

S-Z: Dessert or Fruit

The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware, and soft drinks.

[Map to Silver Lake](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Duvall



Our next meeting in July will be an outdoor pot luck picnic at Silver Lake. See the meeting notice on line to see what you can bring. The club will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs. Although our long time member and resident of Silver Lake Jim Tyree passed away a couple years ago we were still able to get permission to use their facilities so be sure to thank any of the residents for their hospitality.

The Turkey Bash, a training weekend, is coming in August. There are classes for all levels of paddlers. See TRPC web site for details and an application.

If you have done the Upper Slip but have not done the Lower Yough, and think you are ready, July has the Yough Intro trip organized by Fran Hoven. This is an excellent opportunity because there will be many experienced boaters to help. Be sure to contact Fran early because there are only a limited number of permits available.

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

Michael

Keelhaulers Canoe Club Minutes, June 11, 2014

This was an outdoor meeting, so no minutes were taken. Just fun.

The "Savage" brings out the savage in some Keelhaulers By April Hollis

Saturday's trip to the Savage showcased the brutal nature of some KeelHaulers as several attempted to sabotage each others' runs.

First, Nurse Debbie swam at the dam as she got back-end-ered and had her paddle ripped from her hands. She soon decided she didn't want to be the only swimmer. Deb latched onto Lisa's boat, guiding her into a rock and then flipping her over.

Brent was nice in the beginning of the day, letting April borrow his pocket rocket for her third run. But eventually he felt she was paddling it too well and needed to be brought down a peg. He tricked

her into following him through the left side of roadside rapid where he entered his boat and brought his bow down into her shoulder, resulting in her swim, sore shoulder and walk out.

While swimming, April was pissed off and decided Glenn didn't deserve to be having such an easy day. She grabbed onto his kayak and after several attempts to pull him into rocks, she was eventually successful at flipping him.

Saturday was Joris' first run of the Savage and he did a great job! As long as you avoid certain KeelHaulers, it is a continuous playground of relaxed action. Of note is that the dam on the Savage has changed since the last release. The notch on the left was cut out and draws much of the river, creating a nice tough with a large and flippy convergence of reactionary waves at the bottom. It's sort of like Kennedy rapid on the slip. There isn't enough water going over the dam for a clean boof, so expect to snag and fall off into the curtain if you boof.

The Cramer clan dazzled us down the river catching every eddy and nailing every boof.

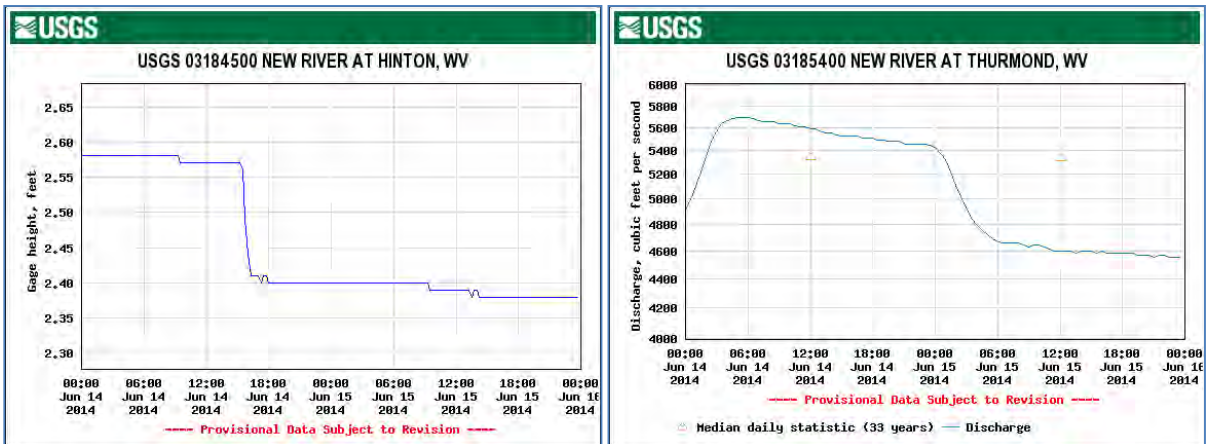
The antics continued at that evening's campfire with a hoedown by Brent and April that became a musical roast of various members of the KeelHaulers. After that, Brent, Jeff, Kyle and Alex Cramer stumped several of the slower-witted members of the group with various childhood campfire games.

The New River Gorge – Saturday & Sunday June 14 & 15, 2014 By David Herron

The Paddlers

Phil & Jen Raber, Debbie Avalone, Glenn Wagner, David Herron, and on Sunday Jeff Kramer and Brian from the Stony Creek area.

The River Levels



The NEW RIVER GORGE	Fayette Station	Thurmond	Hinton
Saturday morning	2.80 ft	5660 cfs	2.58ft
Sunday morning	1.95 ft	4660 cfs	2.40 ft
Monday morning	1.82 ft	4510 cfs	2.33 ft

Here are the gauge readings courtesy of *American Whitewater*.

So, we had 5660 cfs on Saturday and then 4660 cfs on Sunday; Kobak's conversion gives these as just under 3' and just over 2' at Fayette Station.

And the weather was just beautiful: clear blue skies & warm sunny days for the entire weekend.

The Boating

There were very few people—kayakers and rafters too—on the river Saturday and just a handful more on Sunday. I think this was partly because we were ahead of the crowd, even though we put on around 11am both days.

Everybody had great lines and paddled well. We had one *out of boat experience* at Middle Keeney on Saturday, but both paddler and boat were recovered before dropping into Lower Keeney. Although the boat recovery took us right to the edge of dropping into Meat Grinder ☹️

In my opinion, Middle Keeney was the hardest rapid both days; certainly on Saturday. Although both Lower Keeney and Double Z had more bite on Sunday. Dudley's Dip was in on Saturday, but I hit some rock on Sunday.

At these levels the New is a fun big water run, and all the rapids are fairly straightforward.

Tough Week for the McEwan's By John Kobak

Most long time paddlers have heard of Jamie McEwan. In 1972 Jamie, then 19, won a bronze medal in C-1 Slalom at the Olympic games in Munich, Germany. That medal, the first won by an American, inspired many younger paddlers (including several future medalists) to train hard and become champions. He teamed up with partner Lecky Haller to win a silver medal in the C-2 slalom at the 1987 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Bourg St.-Maurice. He and Haller placed fourth in the 1992 Summer Olympics.

In 1998, McEwan and his brother Tom were members of an expedition to run the Tsangpo Gorge, considered the "Mount Everest" of rivers. The expedition encountered unanticipated high water and

ended in tragedy when teammate Doug Gordon failed to boof a waterfall, missed his roll, and lost his life.

In 2009 Jamie was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma after suffering back problems. McEwan died on June 14, 2014. Here is a link to an article he wrote. [Taking Risks is Part of Life](#)

It is highly doubtful that any other paddler has had a greater positive influence on the DC-area kayaking community than Tom McEwan. A local hero, Tom and a friend were the first kayakers to run Great Falls in 1975. Though today Great Falls is run regularly by expert paddlers, at the time no one knew if a kayaker could take a kayak over a waterfall and survive. So if you ask anyone here in Maryland, we'll tell you that Tom ran the first waterfall ever run by a kayaker. More recently, Tom has spent decades teaching local kayakers how to paddle, and he continues to teach at his kayak school, Liquid Adventures. I've paddled with Tom in Mexico where he runs adventure trips each winter.

On Friday, June 20th while taking some kids down Fish Ladder section of the Great Falls, Tom flipped and sustained a major head injury according to Robert Goo. Gil Rocha was surfing at Portage and spotted Tom's boat and looked for the occupant who was pretty much under the water. Gill somehow spotted Tom and brought his head up enough so he could breathe and supported him as they drifted through Rocky down to wet bottom. They somehow got Tom to shore on the rock at wet bottom and called a helicopter. Liam and Jacob who were boating with Tom showed great composure in assisting with the rescue and kept a running dialogue with Tom in addition to monitoring his vitals until a helicopter arrived to evacuate him to a local hospital.



It sounds like it was a bad hit to his head and he has some fractures on his face and bleeding in his brain. He has had multiple cat scans and is in the ICU. The last I heard is that Tom is improving. Bleeding has stopped and he is lucid. Say a prayer for his recovery. Tom is 67 years old and still out paddles most younger paddlers.

Here is a video from a run on Center Lines and Fish Ladder from last year, which shows the difficulty of the run. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDfdT6cWQLU>

Treasurer's Report By Pam Poljak

Keelhaulers Canoe Club Treasurer's Report, 12-Jun-2014

CD 0402	\$2,261.93
CD 3516	\$2,260.00
CD 4709	<u>\$2,242.00</u>
Subtotal	\$6,763.93
Checking	<u>\$4,981.28</u>
Total	<u><u>\$11,745.21</u></u>

July	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
7/10,17,24,31	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH)- 5:30-7:30PM but call Dennis first	20-28	Dennis Dukeman	330-699-2916
7/4,5	Upper Yough or another local IV-V run (MD)	32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293
7/6	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
7/8	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
7/13	(1) Lake Erie Water Trail - Vermilion or Black portion	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
7/13	Canoe & Kayak Orienteering Race Walborn Reservoir - Alliance, OH	SK/FW	Bob Boltz	330-928-8635
7/18,19	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Joe Marksz	216-281-1517 216-533-0604 C
7/19	Portage Lakes Paddle (OH)	SK/FW	David Johnson	330-305-1565
7/19,20	(4) Lower Yough (PA) - Intro weekend - permits	23	Fran Hoven	216-375-3718
7/19,20	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/25,26	Upper Yough (MD) - Paddle Fri, Sat Race & Festival is Saturday, 6 hr release, Race at 4pm Friendsville Days - Fri 6:00-10:00 PM, Sat 12-10 PM	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 440-554-1383
7/26,27	(5) New River (WV)	26	Cecil Tickamyer	814-234-1062
7/26-8/9	Ottawa River (Canada) A play boat trip	27-32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293

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 **August issue of the newsletter is **7/24/14**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

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July, 2014

