

Keelhauler's Ka-news JULY, 2017



Next Club Picnic Meeting Tuesday, July 11th at Camp Hi

Program: Paddling & Pot Luck Picnic

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around, kayaks can try roll practice. Bring your kids and bathing suits. Come any time after 4 PM. We will serve the picnic dinner from 7-7:30 pm. We can use the facility until about 9:00 pm. Try out someone else's boat.

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

- **A-E:** Chips or Appetizer
- **F-L:** Dessert or Fruit
- **M-R:** Potato or Macaroni Salad
- **S-Z:** Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

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

[Click for map to](#) Camp Hi.

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

President's Message From John Banach



Welcome to Summer Keel Haulers.

I hope you have all been enjoying yourselves. Plenty of sunshine, rain, high flows, and pretty days to paddle. We have all been very blessed to have such great weather. I hope that you all can take time for yourselves to go out and paddle. It's like setting time aside that you know will result in a big smile you'll carry with you for days. That's all good in my book.

So now that the longest days are here, everyone will be busy bee's and not be able to check in on the website or FB page. So please remember there is a lot of club activities going on this Summer. Check the trip schedule. And please post on both the website and FB page if you can plan an impromptu paddle where other members could join you.

One upcoming event is the July Keel Hauler meeting and BBQ at Silver Lake on July 11th. I have been promised by a higher power that it will be warm and sunny. But if not, there is the boat house we can use. And it's also nice to paddle in the rain sometimes. But don't worry, it will be sunny. So please bring your friends, family, kids, etc. Just no pets or booze. It's a great venue to have a local club picnic. I really hope for a good turnout from all ages. Come meet young boaters of all styles, young and old. That is what this club is about. Meeting new folks and sharing the same passion. Let's keep that tradition alive my fellow Haulers...

Also to mention, we need to have members consider taking an active roll on the club board for next year. We have unfilled positions and will have more. Please think about it. Come and witness a meeting. Ask some questions about what positions might need to be filled for next year, what the responsibilities are, the benefits, etc. It's fun, I can promise you that.

So as we are heading into the July 4th holiday, I hope that we can all keep the club spirit alive. Let's all enjoy life as we should, get in our boats when we can, spread the great word of paddling to friends and strangers, be stewards of the rivers and lakes, and be good to ourselves.

Thank you fellow Keel Haulers. I am always honored to be your president. I hope to continue to meet each of you at some point. See you on the water soon.

John Banach

**Monthly Treasurer's Report
By Sam Reynolds**

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report
June 19, 2017**

CD'S (2)	\$4, 569.17
Checking	<u>\$7, 956.64</u>
Total	<u>\$12, 525.81</u>

**Keelhauler's Minutes
June, 2017
By Marcia Karchmer**

Pot luck/kayaking at Silver Lake on Tuesday, July 11. Come and share good food, good fun, and good company!!

Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

End of year Membership special.

See <http://keelhauler.org/khcc/membspcl.htm>

Tell your friends, now is the time to join our club.

**Whitewater Kayaking: A Lesson in
Acceptance, Trust and Perseverance
by Katerina Rose Barry**

Graying clouds scattered the sky above to so perfectly juxtapose the almost sickening bright colors that speckle both the green grass and the many redressing bodies around me.

My stomach and heart simultaneously feel light and heavy while I tighten the gaskets around my neck and wrists; as I close my eyes and steady my breath; as I drag my boat to the take out spot and with the help of my partner, get skirted into my boat and pushed out onto the misleadingly slow moving water.



The activities, chances and groups that life throws at us are endlessly interesting. Never before had I imagined that kayaking would be the sport that I would latch onto or that this act; of attaching my body to a piece of plastic being carried down a river, would be one to boundlessly share lessons with me every time I allowed my nerves to partake.

DISCLAIMER: Slight paranoia and discomfort may persist upon reading the story below. This is whitewater after all.

Kayaking is an intimidating activity. Like all things in life it demands devotion and much practice to relish in its vast possibilities. It demands an intuitiveness to both the ways of the water; it's levels, eddies and familiarity with the angles of crashing waves amongst boulders and rocks; as well as a trust and belief in your own body and those who share the river around you. Above all else, kayaking asks of you to relinquish your ego, find power in failure and teaches that it is only in your drive to accept those failures that you will make space for growth-

The river banks on either side of me begin to narrow, as the boaters paddle ahead of me towards, what in my mind I can only picture as an almost vertical descent. An image that quickly flashes before me as I recall my backwards paddle down it the day before; one where I flip almost immediately and swim the entirety of after a failed attempt to roll in the belly of a wave, that at that moment I can only compare with the strength of a soul crushing deity.

Knees bruised and shins aching. I swam five times that day...

I would be dishonest with myself if I said I reentered my boat and paddled away from each of those swims with a positive lesson about why it happened. Although in hindsight, I believe that those swims only made me better; in those moments I was at times overwhelmed with how much my ego resembled my bruised body.

Nonetheless, I persist.

Five swims in, two combat rolls (Successfully flipping myself back over while staying in my boat mid rapid. No swimming! I swear its harder than it sounds.) and with an extremely achy body I leave the

Stoney creek river, the longest and most difficult river I've ran yet, grinning ear to ear and proud of my exercise in beatering.



The next morning, we are geared up and back for round two. That oh so ominous rapid only feet ahead of me yet again. I slowly approach it, allowing those of my group to paddle the decent ahead of me, a determination to defeat this beast attempts to quench my fluttering nerves.

Leaning forward, paddle strong, I make it past the first large rapid ("Oh, this doesn't look so bad!"), I continue down the slope while the mantra of directions repeats in my mind; "stick left, stick left, stick le-" I'm engulfed in water. My paddle is being stolen from my grip by that same frothing beast who ate me the day before, I attempt my roll nonetheless.. Nope. Oh shit, I'm swimming...

Again, I find myself in that familiar realm of failure. Except this time, I couldn't be happier with where I am. I grasp onto an upright kayaker's boat and am brought to shores safety. Once there I shake off the cold water, paddle still in hand and laugh to myself about how completely awesome that was. I failed again... and it felt fucking great!

Although this wasn't my only swim of the day it was by far a more productive time spent in my boat as well as one of the greatest days spent on the water so far. In accepting my prior failures and acknowledging with positivity that these failures will indeed transpire again, I in turn, achieved.

When I stopped worrying so much about having to excel and be the best at everything I do, I became honest with myself and more in tune of the subtleties of success. So yes, I may have swam two times on this second day but with those two swims I felt myself transcend and grow in countless other ways, both in my paddling skills as well as in my mental game, my self-confidence and my ability to dig deep and lean forward with a smile on my face.

This is the wisdom that kayaking imparts on me in some form or fashion every time that I get into my boat. Whether it is divulged to me by the river itself, my own inner workings or through the incessant smiles and encouragement from my partner and peers who support a at times, unlikely candidate in a male dominated sport. Who too, recognize my failures as progression and remind me with their efforts and drive that I have that same power within me to beast these rivers.

Honestly, I likely wouldn't be experiencing this sport at all if it wasn't for the awesome people who support me and so patiently teach.

With these lessons and stories, I encourage you:

In whatever it is you partake in; embrace it's difficulties, seek out those who inspire you to grow and find inspiration from the wounds that are necessary in meeting your goals. If it is whitewater that spurs you, then I challenge you to the rollings, the beaterings and the swims. Become the best version of yourself, but most of all, be YOU.



**Want to get river level; by texting??
From John Kobak**

Due to limited internet connection in numerous places that I paddle I cannot always check online gauges. Often I have just enough service to get out a text message.

If you text the number "41411" then in the message put "level" then the name of the river you will get back a response. Example: "level Blackwater".

You can also save up to three of your favorite rivers by typing "f" after gauge reading reply. Then you can type "level favs", and get all 3 at once.

For more info check this link: <http://riverlevels.us/>

John Kobak

Conservation News Submitted by Jim Hunt

From American Whitewater:

WV Passes On Restoring New River Dries
posted June 5, 2017 by Kevin Colburn



The State of West Virginia today chose to pass on a major economic and environmental opportunity by issuing a water quality certificate for the Hawks Nest Hydroelectric Project that lacks vital restoration of flows to the New River Dries. The certification outlines certain mandatory conditions that must be adopted by Federal regulators for the forthcoming 30 to 50 year license. The certification requires the dam owner to release flows suitable for kayaking and rafting on an average of only 3 to 4 days each year. Without the dam in place such flows would be present on an average of 329 days each year, and such flows now occur relatively rarely and mostly in the winter months when water spills over the dam.

Earlier this year, American Whitewater proposed a solution that would have restored an annual average of 32 days of predictable flows suitable for paddling and ecological values. Under our proposal 1600cfs of flows would be reserved for generation at all times to ensure the industrial power consumer's base needs were met. An annual average of 7 of our proposed releases would have no effect on the hydropower operations because they would coincide with times when the hydropower diversion is overwhelmed by high natural flows. Our proposal would have vastly greater ecological and recreational benefits when compared with the State's certificate, would have created a new tourism product for the region, and was consistent with mitigation at other similar hydropower projects.

Stakeholders have 15 days to initiate an appeal of the State's certificate, which could lead to significant changes. Federal regulators are still gathering vital information on how the hydropower project operates, and could issue a decision that improves upon (but does not conflict with) the new State requirements. The State's decision marks a major setback and hurdle in restoring the New River Dries, but may not be the final word on how the river will be managed.

As we work with communities around the United States to restore rivers and rural economies severely impacted by hydropower dams, it is profoundly disappointing to witness a state passing up such an outstanding opportunity. The New River Dries, with its spectacular scenery, mild whitewater, and easy shuttle could become a classic and popular whitewater run, but only if there is

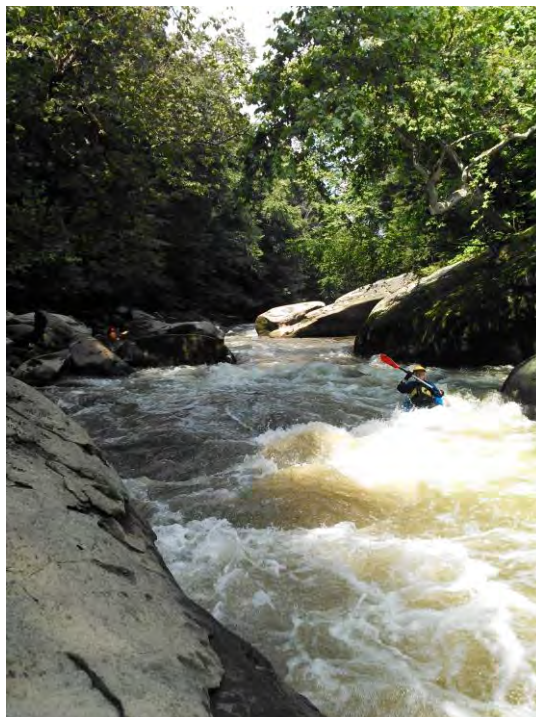
enough water provided during the recreation season. American Whitewater will keep working towards a healthy and accessible New River Dries.

**Reminiscing and Reporting! Aging with
an Attitude! Local Trips Are Still Fun!
By Andy Gross**

June 21, 2017 - Spring turns to Summer...

Just about 40 years ago, our family came back to Northeast Ohio from Montreal after spending 2 years in 'The True North.' I was teaching at McGill University and decided to take up sailing. After several lessons and trial runs on a cute little Sunfish sailboat, decided that it was not meant for me. But my love for being on the water was still present, so looking around joined Keelhaulers in 1977 or 1978. I remember my first boats as being long and awkward; some were fiberglass and some were too heavy. Eventually gravitated to Perception kayaks, first a Dancer and then a Matrix. But then Brent Hendren found a great whitewater boat for me, a Savage Skreem, a perky yet stable boat. Thanks!

In the 30 years or so between, during 1980-2010, I participated in several out-of-state trips to the Lower Yough, the Cheat, the New, and especially to Slippery Rock creek, our beloved Slip. At first it was the Lower Slip, but then honed my skills on the Upper and the Miracle Mile between the Mill and Eckert bridge. Lots of great people encouraged me on all these outings with good advice and friendly tips. Mr. Keelhauler, aka John Kobak, gave me two of the best hints: (1) you cannot save yourself, save the boat, and it will save you and (2) keep your paddle in the water even if it is the wrong way. While I did attend roll sessions, my roll has been just about 85% not bomb-proof. I did roll at Triple Drop on the Slip, on demand once and here is a picture of me taken at the same location in 2014—yeah, am upright! But I always knew that the Lower Yough was my upper limit!



Andy on Slippery Rock. Picture taken by at Triple Drop of the Slip by Ms. Tessa (Mrs. Luke) Ramsey

Time marches on. When I was 70 I asked the good Lord for one more decade on the Slip and it was just about granted, though am not sure that I was on the Slip in 2015 when I hit the big 80. In any case, age and external forces converged now. My right shoulder blade is a bit sore from lifting the kayak (why did I not alternate shoulders?) and my strength is a bit lower, even though am working out daily, alternating five different activities. Traffic on the freeways has become more crowded, there is construction going on at all times, drivers are less courteous. So recall the old adage: never spend more hours driving than on the river.

This spring participated in my first Vermilion race even though I have done many 'sweeps' before. But it seemed the right thing to do on March 26th as the air temp hit 55F and the water temp was estimated at 50F. Did go down after the others and came in last in my category (at around 2 hours, 42 minutes), but was proud as I wiggled off several rocks without any mishap; the level was low and scrappy, all participants were grateful that the river was 'lower runnable' and we did not have to do the lagoon.

During April, May, and June I was on the short stretch of the Cuyahoga between Peninsula and Boston Mills. What I learned is that the river is quite doable or runnable at different levels. In April, just two of us, Father Gabriel Lavery (who long ago surpassed me and now paddles big rivers) kindly agreed to join me in an ad hoc trip at a 4.2' level. He managed to nudge me off a rock toward the end and we both enjoyed the surfing in a few locations. In May, Rick Feinberg and I put on at 5.2' and while it seemed a bit high, the river was still much fun, a few mild rapids still did exist and were not washed out.

Finally, in an organized trip in early June we encountered a level of 3.2' and lo and behold, the river was still runnable. Present were the four Kiehl family members—Chris, Ann, Spencer and Travis, also Mike and Beth from Wadsworth, Renee, and myself. It was sunny and 80F or so; everyone had lots of fun, the YGers (Younger Generation) played more than yours truly in the rapids and the surf. A word of advice here: parking lots in the CVNP get filled early on by cars as many bicyclists and joggers are coming out to be on the trails.

In sum, am likely to stick to local rivers for reasons cited, but who knows, on a warm day in mid-summer, may be persuaded to return to the Slip. But am having fun now with local rivers and am hoping to do the Grand and the Chagrin as well as the Cuyahoga again when the levels are right or at least "lower runnable." Please yell at me if you do not see my paddle in the water.

Cheers and SYOR, y'all!
Andrew (Andy) Gross

**More Conservation News....
Reprinted from Pennsylvania Land Trust
Association
Conserveland.org**

Supreme Court Rules for Conservation and Constitution

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled yesterday, June 20, on *Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Fund v. Commonwealth*. The majority decision is a huge win for the Pennsylvania Constitution,

specifically Article 1, Section 27 (the "Environmental Rights Amendment"), and conservation. At the most basic level, the Court said that the Pennsylvania Constitution means what it says:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

This right is part of the Constitution's Article 1—Pennsylvania's "Declaration of Rights"—which is akin to the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.

The immediate effect of the ruling is that the General Assembly and governor are prohibited from selling oil and gas from state forests without reinvesting the proceeds into conservation. The Commonwealth had been using much of this revenue to fund general government operations. Government will now have to clearly connect revenues generated by taking from our publicly owned natural resources to the conservation and maintenance of those natural resources, which the government does not own but rather holds in trust for the public.

The Court affirmed that the public trust provision of Section 27 is "self-executing"—that is, it needs no law passed by the General Assembly to make it operational.

To quote (without references) from the Supreme Court decision:

Pennsylvania's environmental trust thus imposes two basic duties on the Commonwealth as the trustee. First, the Commonwealth has a duty to prohibit the degradation, diminution, and depletion of our public natural resources, whether these harms might result from direct state action or from the actions of private parties. Second, the Commonwealth must act affirmatively via legislative action to protect the environment.

With this decision the Court sends a message that it is serious about upholding Article 1, Section 27, a fundamental Constitutional right that—until now—has received shamefully little respect from our governmental leaders.

See the court's [whole opinion](#).

Supreme Court Rules for Parks

A big win for parks! The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled yesterday (June 20) on the Kardon Park case. The Court, in a unanimous decision, adopted the rock-solid, reasonable arguments the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and others made in defense of our parks and rejected those of the developer and municipality who seek to liquidate a portion of a park for a housing development. The Court found that:

- A municipality can't grant easements and other interests in public park properties for private purposes. If it's a park, its uses must serve public purposes. (This doesn't mean that the municipality can't work in partnership with private parties to provide services to the public in parks, only that parks must be used to serve public interests, not private interests.)
- A municipality can't sell off park land just because the General Assembly lifts state Project 70 restrictions on the land. The Court recognized that Project 70 rules serve to ensure that state Project 70 grants given to local governments are used (or repurposed) appropriately; Project 70 rules have nothing to do with whether the dedication of public parkland can be undone. The question of when it is appropriate to undo a dedication of public parkland is addressed instead by the Donated or Dedicated Property Act, which states that the park use must be "no longer practicable or possible and ceased to serve the public interest. The Act assigns the local Orphans' Court the


sometimes complex task of adjudicating whether this condition is met and what the municipality must do to fulfill its trustee responsibility to the public. (It's important to understand that neither the state nor the municipality own a park; rather, they hold the park in trust for the park's owners—the public.)

(The Court sent an issue regarding parkland acquired through eminent domain back to a lower court, because it found that everyone was using the wrong version of the eminent domain code in their deliberations.)

Justice Debra Todd wrote the [opinion](#), which was joined by all the Court's justices.

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has a lengthening track record of successfully defending Pennsylvania's parks in the General Assembly and the courts. The Association appreciates its partnership with PennFuture, which provided legal services, and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, which joined PALTA in this latest effort.

July	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
6/30,7/1,2,3	Upper Yough (MD) or another local IV-V run	32	Jim Murtha	614-282-3293
7/1,2,15,16,29,30	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
7/2	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
7/8	Tuscarawas River Canoe Race Registration Form - Dover (OH) Poker paddle after race. Plus food and activities for families	SK/FW	Mary Jo Monte-Kaser	330-340-5180
	 Click for info			
7/8	Headwater Adventure Race in Mantua Village (OH) Run, Bike & Paddle * 	SK/FW	Jill Grimm	330-842-1634
7/11	Club Picnic at Silver Lake (OH) Map to Silver Lake, between Kent & Akron, OH		John Banach	330-606-5032
7/14,21,28	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH)- 5:30-7:30PM But call Organizer first		Needs organizer	
7/15,16	(4) Lower Yough (PA) Intro weekend - Call Fran for Permit	23	Fran Hoven	216-375-3718
7/15	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/16	Canoe & Kayak Orienteering Race Walborn Reservoir - Alliance, OH 	SK/FW	Bob Boltz	330-928-8635
7/21,22	Upper Yough (MD) - Paddle Fri, Sat Race & Festival is Saturday, 6 hr release. Race Check in: 9 AM - 12 PM at Wilderness Voyageurs in Friendsville, MD. Entry Fee : \$30 Race classes: All boats welcome! Race classes will be determined by the number of entrants Start Time: 4 PM at Gap Falls Post Race:	32	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203

	<p>Prizes and party at Wilderness Voyageurs following the event</p>  <p>Friendsville Days Festival Friday July 21st & Saturday July 22nd</p> <p>Friday Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Free Community Picnic at 5:30 pm * Crowning of Miss Friendsville Days Queen * Savage Road Band 6:00 pm * Corn Hole Tournament 6:00 pm <p>Saturday</p> <p>PARADE at NOON</p> <p>Appearance by Miss Maryland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Opening Ceremony 1:00pm * Nic Of Tyne Band 2:00 pm * Subway Show Band 7:00 pm * Car, Truck, & Motorcycle Show * Volleyball, Horseshoe, & Basketball Tournaments * 6 Ring Pony Rides * Eating Contest * Bingo & Bake Sale—in Senior Center <p>FIREWORKS at 10:15pm</p> <p>For More Information Contact: FriendsvilleDays@hotmail.com Parade: 301.746.5524 * Car Show: 301.746.4282 * Vendors: 301.746.5993 General Information: 301.746.5884</p> <p>Friendsville Days - Fri 5:30-10:00 PM, Sat 12-10 PM. Note - Town will be closed to traffic around 11:45 AM</p>			
7/22,23	(5) New River (WV)	26	Needs organizer	
7/28,29	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Joris Kinable	412-708-2244

Need trip organizers - Pick a trip from last year or one in red. Contact: Joe Boyd at 330-858-6270 or joebtravels@yahoo.com



The 19th annual West Virginia Watershed Celebration Day will be held on the Cheat River at Camp Dawson August 18-19th. The event brings together watershed groups from all across the state and is open to anyone interested in WV rivers. FOC will be hosting field trips Friday afternoon and giving the opening presentation Saturday morning.

Learn more and signup [here](#) (the event is free!)

See your favorite Cheat Fest bands at the West Virginia Cares Festival! Proceeds benefit Friends of the Cheat and the Combat Vets Association.

Learn more at wvcaresfest.com



2017 Club Officers

President	John Banach	330-606-5032
VP:	Don Howdyshell	330-671-0825
Secretary:	Marcia Karchmer	440-773-4132
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.

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 **7/23/17**. Please send articles to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
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July, 2017

