

# Keelhauler's Ka-news

**JUNE, 2017**



**Next Club Monthly Meeting is to be announced...**

For more meeting information contact:

**John Banach** [j\\_banacka@hotmail.com](mailto:j_banacka@hotmail.com) . . . . 330-606-5032

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

## **President's Message From John Banach**



Hello and Happy late Spring my fellow Keel Haulers.

I hope you have been out enjoying yourselves on the water. The weather in NE Ohio has been continued to be very favorable. I'll keep doing my rain dance in hopes the Summer flows stay more like Spring.

As we are now officially into May, I want to recap some of the highlights from the past couple months.

To Start, The club helped sponsor the Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race in late April. Over 50 racers from 15 different states attended. Lead race chairman and KHCC VP Don Howdyshell did a fantastic job creating and organizing such a large and fantastic event. And special mention to Tommy and Nick for their effort and also racing skills. We had a fantastic crowd considering the chilly weather we had that day.

I did not participate in the race this year. In fact, I barely saw any of the race. I was busy manning our KHCC tent, signing up new members and helping to spread the good word about our sport and our club. We signed up 7 new member on that day. Not a bad day I'd say. I am super excited to have the chance to paddle with you all at some point.

We just had Cheat Fest and the Stony Creek Rendezvous. I only made it to "Stony Fest" but it was a blast. I'd say almost 1000 cars camped, kayaked, and partied Friday-Sunday. We had two groups of 13 on Saturday and again on Sunday. There certainly were a lot of Stony new-bee's but ya'all did great. Special mention to Steve, Katerina, Dan, Jimmy, Jamie, and Tyler for rocking the Stony for their first time. I can still picture all of your ear to ear smiles after the take out. And my arms still hurt from paddling your boats and gear to shore after each swim. ☺

As we enter the "busier" paddling season, I wish you all the joy and happiness in the world. Paddling is a great way to relieve stress, forget about yourself and find yourself again, build muscles you didn't know you had, and to get out and enjoy nature. Hey, always better sitting in a canoe or kayak on the water than on a couch in your living room.

Be sure to continue to check the trip schedule and also the website and FB page for impromptu paddling sessions. Whether flat water, WW, class1-2 or Class 4+. Lot's going on if you know where to look for it.

I am working on a late June Summer picnic. Possibly to be held in Silver Lake, OH. Not official yet but keep an eye out for an update.

OK fellow member, I just want to reach out and thank each and every one of you for being part of this club. It was clearly proven this weekend at the Stony how much fun we can have as a club. And also how valuable a resource it can be to improve all aspects of this sport. My heart and soul are full from spending such great time. Times I'll never forget. So keep making those paddling memories my friends. And I hope to see you on the water soon.

All the best,

El Presendente John

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

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report  
May 23, 2017**

CD 0402	\$2, 285.80
CD 1077	<u>\$2, 282.72</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4, 568.52
Checking	<u>\$7, 872.16</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$12, 440.68</u></b>

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

No meeting in May. Next meeting is a possible picnic.

**2017 Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race Highlights  
From Don Howdlyshell**

I've been holding off on giving out all the necessary thanks and praise to everyone involved with the race event until we had something to publish. As the Race Coordinator, I've been responsible for putting all the pieces into place, but the pieces are what is the most important.

I'd like to emphasize that everyone involved, including myself, did so on a volunteer basis. All the funds raised during the race will continue to go back into the event and community projects related to the river. This is our passion, and our personal time, money, and hearts go into making this happen. The kayaking community appreciates the welcoming atmosphere Cuyahoga Falls offers our sport. As kayakers, we enjoy this event for ourselves, but we also do it for the spectators! We celebrate the river's beauty and natural resource with you!

Now let's get on to all those pieces I mentioned...

[Matt Jackson](#), our video production pilot, put together this compilation of video & photos for everyone to enjoy for years to come. He traveled from Georgia to join us, and when you watch this video you'll be glad he did!

For the YouTube Version, go here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrJJoeVRzDQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrJJoeVRzDQ)

Financial Sponsors:

[Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race](#)

[Western Reserve Hospital](#)

[Akron Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) (Sports Alliance of Greater Akron)

Fisher Auto Parts

[MST Adventures, LLC](#)

[Mayor Don Walters](#)

We thank you for your faith in this event and your support! Your financial contributions went towards additional safety equipment, trophies for competitors, advertising & marketing, and equipment rentals.

Event Contributors:

Jeff Lynch, and the staff at [Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls](#) and [Beau's on the River](#), we thank you for your hospitality and for providing an excellent spectator and participant experience.

[World Kayak](#), provided essential insurance as well as race rewards for competitors.

[Burning River Adventures](#), the shuttle crew for the race, performed flawlessly with their staff.

Their service is crucial for the event! The kayak rental season is kicking off, be sure to check them out and get on the river!

[City of Akron](#) water supply staff, and Rockwell Reservoir, for supporting the event and being there with a water release if we need it!

The Keel-Haulers Canoe Club members, all who helped with safety, volunteer work, time keeping, and additional duties needed on race day. If you're looking for a place to get into kayaking groups, the KHCC is the place to start!

[Robert Forbes](#), with GrayHouse Media, provided additional photos and the spectacular Drone footage you'll see in the video!

[Jackson Kayak](#) provided the Jackson Kayak Antix for the boat raffle. We're extremely thankful for their support and interest in our event!

[Extreme Designs Embroidery & Screen Printing](#), did an excellent job on our event shirts! If you didn't have a chance to get one, we do have some left over!

Special thanks to [Knox A Hammack](#) at [Torryd](#) for supporting the event!

[Redi-Print](#) did an amazing job on all our materials from post cards, posters, banner, and stickers! Check them out if you ever need prints!

Ed Stewart, and the staff at the [Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation](#) for helping coordinate campsites for out of town visitors. Additionally, they relocated and set up the bleachers at the Sheraton Suites.

Paul Moledor, Chris Bickett, and [Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department](#) for providing additional safety support and radios.

City of Cuyahoga Falls Police Department for providing security for the event.

Mayor [Don Walters](#) for coordinating event meetings and contacts with essential personnel. The banner was a nice surprise too!

[Ilene Shapiro](#), Summit County Executive, for partnering up with Mayor Walters on the race banner!

[HiHO Brewing Company](#), thanks for the after party!

[Watershed Drybags](#), who provided additional prizes for the competitors!

[Immersion Research](#), provided additional prizes for competitors!

[Dirt Bag Paddlers](#), more prizes and handouts for competitors!

The race bibs were provided by Barry Adams, and were sponsored by Thompson Gusic Insurance Group, [Friends of the Cheat](#), and [American Whitewater](#). These bibs are great and we were glad to have them loaned to us!

Chris Bowe and Vince Bishop, our Time Keepers, were assisted by Pete Costello, Mike Johnson, and Cliff Wire. Phenomenal Job!

Dave Hill, Corey Spoores, and [Brian Homberg](#) provided crucial insight and ideas for event logistics.

HUGE SHOUT OUT TO ALL 49 COMPETITORS WHO SHOWED UP TO RACE! Thanks to all out-of-town travelers who made the trip!

Honorable mentions:

Team Jackson Kayak: [Stephen Wright](#), [Seth Chapelle](#), [Chad Christopher](#), and [Matthew Huddleston](#). It was great having you all at the event!

Team [Dagger Kayaks](#): [Bobby Miller](#), [Wade Harrison](#), and [Hunter Cooper](#). Thanks for joining us!

Team [Pyranha Kayaks](#): [Adam Homberg](#). Thanks for jammin' on the Cuyahoga again!

Special Thanks to our Primary Safety and Safety boaters: [Jeff Cramer](#), [Sean Chapelle](#), [Brennan Martens](#), [Colton Eversole](#), Justin Jeffers, Shawn Yingling, Mark Rodman, [Danny Piros](#), Gabriel Lavery, Jim Hunt, [Jason Rovira](#), [Alison Gillam](#), and the 3 on 1 line master - [Michael Scott](#).

Special thanks to Matthew Fredmonsky for helping with PR.

Special thanks to our event volunteers: Cindy Howdyshell, Donald Howdyshell, Craig Howdyshell, Travis Howdyshell, Chris Folsom, Stephanie Furbee, Brit Wigman, & Stacey Parker and many more.

Special thanks to additional photography support: Bill Lewis, [Brian Wilson](#), and Ryan Laughlin. Thanks to Nic Williams, Mike Ran, & Ross for personally investing into the Slalom course and setting it up.

The 2016 Race Co-Founders!

[Nic Williams](#) - Team [Liquidlogic Kayaks](#)

[Tommy Piros](#) - Team Jackson Kayak

Without your dream, this may have never happened! You have both pioneered [#ohiostouts](#) and have helped push Ohio and Cuyahoga Falls into the mouths and ears of the whitewater world.

Finally, to all the spectators and supporters, we thank you wholeheartedly! Please continue to Like & Share our page and posts. We currently have only 1 yearly Race event, but we have a lot of updates throughout the year, especially for the local community.

My biggest fear in giving thanks and due credit is accidentally leaving someone out who is deserving. Furthermore, Facebook limits how many people I can Tag...so... Thanks to everyone!

Sincerely,

Don Howdyshell, Race Coordinator

**Supporting the Cause,  
Fighting for Water  
By Matthew Fredmonsky**

Water quality, river access, shuttle parking, lobbying on behalf of the paddling community and more - these are all tireless and thankless, yet essential, endeavors tackled by paddling and river clubs across the country.

Without this such work, we would have fewer rivers to paddle as Keelhaulers. So to support the cause, the club makes annual donations to numerous groups, including:

**River Network** - This non-profit supports improving water quality, water access and recreational opportunities. "Your support is more important than ever," Nicole Silk, president of River Network, wrote in a letter thanking Keelhaulers for its support. "We are entering a rapidly changing and unpredictable period for the hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals who work hard to protect and restore waters at the local, state and regional levels. Your donation will enable us to bring their voices to the attention of national audiences, to bring peer support from across the country to the aid of urgent local needs, and clarity regarding the rapidly changing policy context of water."

**American Rivers** - Keelhaulers supports American Rivers' mission to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water, among its many goals. "Through this investment we will continue to remove outdated dams, protect rivers through Wild and Scenic River designations, complete important headwater restoration, host river cleanups across the country and much more," said Georgette Blanchfield, senior vice president, advancement, American Rivers.

**West Virginia Rivers** - This group works to ensure all people have access to clean, safe West Virginia water. "You're ongoing support enables WRVC to be the voice for West Virginia rivers and streams," said Kathleen Tyner, outreach manager, WRVC.

**The Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association** - Keelhaulers supports the GCPBA, which helps make it possible for many of our members to paddle the Colorado River. GCPBA is the leading advocate for the private boater who wants to boat the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Several Keelhaulers will be making this once-in-a-lifetime paddle this summer, including Alison and Mike Gillam (we expect a trip report, guys!)

**Friends of the Cheat** - A group we all know (and love), FOC works to ensure access to the Cheat River canyon. This year, Keelhaulers donated \$500 to help with the group's big project, digging drainage ditches and adding gravel to the takeout access road.

**American Whitewater** - The Keelhaulers are a supporting affiliate club of American Whitewater, arguably the nation's leading lobbyist group for whitewater paddling.

## Conservation News Submitted by Jim Hunt

Conservation: to see links, go to AW website

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/33760/>  
From American Whitewater

## Ocoee Release Fix Proposed in TN Legislature

posted April 6, 2017

by Kevin Colburn



A bill has been introduced in the Tennessee Legislature that aims to continue treasured recreational releases on the Ocoee River after current release agreements expire in March of 2019. The [Ocoee River Recreation and Economic Development Fund Act](#), would create a fund that would be used to pay the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for releases and to pay for other river management costs. The Fund would be funded through a 10% fee on outfitter revenue, as well as

through state appropriations, grants, and donations. The Fund would be administered by an 11-person board, including a private boating representative.

The bill is silent on the number and timing of releases that would be bought from the TVA. Both TVA and outfitters indicate that the release schedule will be very similar to the current schedule on both the Upper and Middle Ocoee. The proposed release schedule should be available within a few weeks.

If this bill passes, a number of steps would have to follow. The Fund would likely need an initial appropriation from the State legislature to make payments to TVA in 2019. The TVA will study a range of release schedules using a (NEPA) process that requires consideration of alternatives and public comment (estimated to begin in early May). Contracts will be signed based on the outcome of the study. With the Fund in place, money in the Fund, a decision from TVA in place, and a contract with TVA, recreation releases could continue for years to come.

Paddlers have a few important near-term opportunities to weigh in on this proposed path forward:

**STEP 1 - First:** Read the Bill. The bill's webpage [is here](#), the language itself is in [the amendment](#) (you can also download [here](#)). Note other amendments may be added to the bill's webpage (one already eliminated a proposed increase in rafting capacity).

**STEP 2 - Now:** If you live in Tennessee, reach out to your state legislators and tell them what you think about the bill. We made it easy for you to [email your legislator](#) and let them know what you think about the bill.

**STEP 3 - May 2017:** No matter where you live, when TVA studies the fate of the Ocoee you will have opportunities to comment at least twice: once on what issues and alternatives should be studied and preferred (Likely May), and then on their draft analysis and draft decision (Likely 2018).

**STEP 4 - This Summer:** If the bill passes, you will be able to contact the private boating representative and other members of the fund board to advocate for your interests. Here at American Whitewater we do not believe the public should have to pay a public agency for public water to be released from public dams. With this said, the historical pay-for-water status quo is unlikely to change as long as there are willing payers, and therefore we look at this legislation pragmatically. This is the path the outfitters have chosen to take to protect Ocoee releases, at their own expense, and it stands to protect these very important releases for all paddlers. While we should remain vigilant regarding potential new fees on private boaters, this legislation does not include or envision such fees. We support this legislation as a means of funding Ocoee River management.

American Whitewater wants to see no net loss in Ocoee releases. We'll be advocating for the continuation of the historic schedule or something very close in TVA's public process. If the request from the Fund falls short of this goal, we'll ask TVA to make up the shortfall by providing releases free of compensation. Over 750 paddlers participated in our Ocoee River related survey late last year and we have a wealth of data to support the value of releases.

American Whitewater will help keep paddlers aware of all opportunities to weigh in, and make commenting easy at each step. We view this as an issue of national importance, and will be highly involved now that public processes have begun. We'd like to thank NRS for supporting our efforts to secure a good outcome on the Ocoee. The important first step: If you live in TN, [Let your legislator know what you think](#) about the Ocoee River Recreation and Economic Development Fund Act.

## Pirate Paddle



**Upper Yough - 5/28,29/2017**

People ask, what is this, is it a birthday party? NO, I turned 80 in January. It's paddling.

The trip is on Memorial Day weekend, the scheduled releases are on Sunday and Monday and depending on the water level I hope all my friends can join me on the river to celebrate my first time, since turning 80, that I will paddle the Upper Yough.



Eye Patches will be distributed to all that want to join in the celebration; we will break up into smaller groups through the rapids.

Free camping available at our cabin at 377 Beaver Creek Dr. for the weekend. Call or text me at 440-554-1383 if you can make it. Besides being old, I'm a wimp and I won't paddle if the water level is too high.

**John Kobak**



### **New Yearbook Pages From John Kobak**

Since we have gotten so many new members since the first of the year and none are in our yearbook, I have attached two pages that members could print as formatted. They are following, and can be printed back to back to save paper.

Welcome new members!



**Need trip organizers - Pick a trip from last year or one in red. Contact: Joe Boyd at 330-858-6270 or [joeboyltravels@yahoo.com](mailto:joeboyltravels@yahoo.com)**

5/20,21 5/27,28	(3) Cheat and Potomac South Branch watersheds. Be sure to contact Steve for river choice, like Potomac, Stonycreek, Casselman, Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy rivers	18	<a href="#">Steve Ingalls</a>	216-371-8250
5/27	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	<a href="#">Ann Corey</a>	330-858-4841
5/27,28	(3) N. Br. <a href="#">Potomac Release</a> (MD)	18	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541
5/28,29	Upper Yough (MD) Sunday is the <a href="#">80 Pirate Paddle</a>  	32	<a href="#">John Kobak</a>	440-554-1383
<b>June</b>	For More Trips - Check our <a href="#">Message Board</a>			
6/2,9,16,23,30	Thursday Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir (OH) - 5:30-7:30PM But call Organizer first		<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
6/3	(4) Lower Yough (PA) <a href="#">Get Permit</a>	23	<a href="#">Sabine Iben</a>	216-407-6575
6/3	River to Lake - Luau - Sea Kayak Trip (OH) Rocky River to Lake Erie followed by a potluck dinner	FW/SK	<a href="#">Mark Spang</a>	440-522-0520
6/3	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
6/3,4	TRPC <a href="#">Slippery Rock Clinic Application</a> Membership in KHCC or TRPC REQUIRED Registration ends when the classes are filled or May 20	13-19	<a href="#">Joe Marks</a>	216-533-0604
6/3,4	(5) New River (WV)	27	<a href="#">Dave Herron</a>	513-681-4075
6/3,4	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	<a href="#">Dave Roush</a>	440-623-9035
6/10	(1) Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills (OH)	SK/FW	<a href="#">Ann Corey</a>	330-858-4841
6/11	(1) Licking River (OH)	FW	<a href="#">Tom Kaylor</a>	901-219-4236
6/10,11	Mark Hanna and Carl Schneider Memorial Swiftwater Clinic (WV) <a href="#">More Information</a> Limited to 10, Register early only \$90/person		<a href="#">Joe Marks</a>	216-533-0604
6/16,17	Upper Yough (MD) First Saturday Release	32	<a href="#">Bill Warble</a>	412-651-0112
6/17,18	(4) Lower Yough (PA) <a href="#">Get Permit</a>	23	<a href="#">April Hollis</a>	703-915-6382
6/17,18	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	<a href="#">Jim Sollosi</a>	412-496-8672
6/17,18	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
6/23,24	Upper Yough (MD)	32	<a href="#">Michael Duvall</a>	216-513-5921

## 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

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. 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 July issue of the newsletter is 6/23/17. Please send articles to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com).**

**KeelHauler Kanews**  
Kelly Miller, Editor  
701 Forrest Ave.  
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**June, 2017**

