

Keelhauler's Ka-news MARCH, 2017



**Next Club Monthly Meeting is on 4/11.
Brick House Tavern, 581 Howe Ave,
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221**

Program: To be announced.....

For more Meeting information contact:

John Banach j_banacka@hotmail.com 330-606-5032

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

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

February meeting minutes: Highlights of board telecon:

Old business: none

New business:

John: We have 250 active members, the most in 10 years! Attendance at roll sessions has been high!

Our new Facebook site has 122 members! Many thanks to John Kobak and Don for setting it up!

Vermilion River Race is on March 26, with low water alternate date April 2. Volunteers are needed! Contact Jon Reising.

The board voted to be a sponsor in the Cuyahoga Falls Race on April 22. Volunteers will be needed for this, too!

More sea kayak membership is needed.

Happy 80th birthday to John Kobak!!!

No March meeting. Meeting will be held April 11, location to be announced.

Marcia Karchmer, Secretary

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

**Keelhaulers' Canoe Club Treasurer's Report
February 17, 2017**

CD 0402	\$2, 283.18
CD 1077	<u>\$2, 280.75</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4, 563.93
Checking	<u>\$ 8, 040.22</u>
Total	<u>\$12,604.15</u>

Keel-Haulers Help To Protect U.S. Rivers

Each year, Jim Hunt, Conservation Chairperson, recommends to the Board of Trustees that the Keel-Hauler's Club support specific river conservation organizations. The following organizations were approved by the Trustees and checks were sent early in February:

American Whitewater-\$600
Friends of the Cheat-\$500
Friends of the Crooked River-\$300
Grand Canyon Private Boater Association-\$150
American Rivers-\$150
West Virginia River Coalition-\$150
River Network-\$100
Nature Conservancy-\$150
Mountain Watershed Association-Yough Defense Fund-\$150

Through our collective effort, \$2250.00 will be used to protect our rivers.

Thank you.

Sam Reynolds, Treasurer

Vermilion River Clean Up And Vermilion River Race By Jon Reising

March 19th, Vermilion River Clean up

Please come and help clean up the river for the Vermilion River race that will take place next Sunday March 28th. Call or email me if you can help with this.

March 26 2017, 49th Annual Vermilion River Race

We have 16 classes to race in so come and participate in Information is on the Keel Hauler home page. Please take a day and come and race/help with this event that the club has sponsored for the last 47 years. **Please check Rules & Application for change in classes and rules.** We have added a new class for you **Stand Up Paddle Boarders**. Be sure your Ohio boat registration is up-to-date. **Water level is critical**, the race will only be held on this section of the river if the [USGS Gauge](#) is between 2.8 to 6 feet. If it's too low, the race will be moved downstream to start and finish at the South Street Boat Launch Ramp on West River road in Vermilion. If it's too high it will be scheduled for April 2, 2017.

Jon Reising mnmsguy@yahoo.com
440 967 9507

Keelhauler website link for information, entry forms, etc.
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/vermil.htm>

**49th Annual Keel – Haulers
Vermilion River Canoe & Kayak Race
March 26th 2017**

(High water date is April 2nd 2017)



This is the club's 49th annual race, one of the oldest in the US. The rapids are an easy class 1.
The race is appropriate for novice to expert racers as well as recreational and sea kayaks. We encourage families and small groups who want to race together. This race is a great opportunity to shake the cob webs off your muscles and get ready for the paddling season.

**Registration opens @ 9:00 a.m.
Shoepfle Gardens, Birmingham Ohio
Contact information: 440-967-9507
mnmsguy@yahoo.com**

2nd Annual Cuyahoga Falls Race April 22 and 23, 2017

April 22, 2017

Boater Registration: 9am - 11am @ the Sheraton Hotel Lobby. Sheraton Suites: 1989 Front St, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221, Entry fee is \$20 for paddlers.

Safety briefing: TBD

Short Boat Race begins: 1pm

Long Boat Race begins: TBD

Possible Open Class Slalom Race TBD

Freestyle and Huck* session after Race: TBD

*"Huck" is a kayaking slang term for launching oneself off a waterfall.

Following are links to more information about the upcoming race.

<http://www.cfkayakrace.com/>

Registration online form:

<http://www.cfkayakrace.com/sign-up.html>

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/cuyahoga-falls-kayak-race>

Online video:

<https://youtu.be/6JbPsLNNQg4>

For more information or questions, contact:

Don Howdysshell at 330-671-0825 or donh458@gmail.com.

Bruised Ribs and Egos on Stonycreek Canyon By Matt Fredmonsky

The spring of 2016 proved generous to paddlers in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, as one of the region's great river-play runs ran often. I'm talking of course about the Stonycreek Canyon in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they must get enough rain to fill the Quemahoning Reservoir in order to get the scheduled whitewater releases to turn the Stony Canyon into a playboater's wet dream.



Punching Showers rapid on the Stonycreek Canyon. Photo credit: Matt Jackson

Typically, the reservoir runs low and stops releasing by early summer. Last year, the Stony was running into July. Every-other weekend, members of the Keelhaulers Canoe and Kayak Club became fixtures in the shuttle parking lots at the ballfields and Carpenter's Park.

On one June weekend the reservoir had enough water to release on both Saturday and Sunday, and a group of us turned the rare summer occasion into a weekend of paddling and camping. I had spent the winter and spring getting comfortable in my new down-river playboat, a banana-colored Fuse 64, and so every feature on the Stony became a challenge for surfing, spinning or just dropping into it for a beating. I had more than a dozen sessions playing in Swimmer's on the Lower Yough, surfing the various waves at 271 on the Cuyahoga and anywhere else I could find a hole or wave to do some playboating work in.

Needless to say, I was feeling especially confident - despite really not having any playboating moves - when I dropped into the surfer's right side (river left) of the Third Sister rapid on the Stony Canyon to test my mettle. The rapid is a ledge drop that creates a wicked hydraulic at all levels, with a narrow playspot. I wasn't entirely unprepared for the ride, but I wasn't expecting to get so stuck that several times the thought "I am never going to get out of here" would run through my head. I was side surfing pointing river left. Then I was rodeo-riding into a side surf pointing river right. Then I pulled a flat spin. And on, and on it went for what felt like an eternity (but was really between 2 minutes to 3 minutes max). The upstream pull of the hole made it impossible for my meager skills to get me to surfer's left, and freedom, where a break in the bedrock creates a tongue that provides the weary (and informed) paddler an escape. I managed to ride the hole, much to the entertainment of the small crowd enjoying lunch on the bank, without flipping until I muscled my way out to surfer's right. The ride was certainly uglier than a dead pig wearing lipstick, but in my mind it was a success. I survived without rolling or swimming, and I got a few spins - unintended or not - in for posterity's sake.



From left: Matt Fredmonsky, Josiah Colvin and Pete Costello at Greenhouse Park.

That day we paddled all the way down to *Greenhouse Park*, where we further exhausted ourselves playing in the wave for a few more hours as the last of the day's water trickled away. We all had a stellar, confidence-building day and were ready for day two.



Pulling a stern stall in the *Stony* play wave at *Greenhouse Park*. Photo credit: Jeremiah Richard

Our micro-Keelhaulers crew included Javan Robinson, Josiah Colvin, Nick Conway, Jeremiah Richard and Pete Costello. It poured down rain that night, adding extra juice to our already amped-up attitudes for the weekend.

We embarked on our second day feeling ready to conquer the Stikine. Fortunately, it was just the Stony. I'd spent the night around the campfire egging on Javan, who has shown some incredible growth in a short time paddling. I kept telling him that if he dropped into the Third Sister hole, I would aim for a repeat performance. I kept telling him it wasn't that bad, but it would be an epic ride. Javan isn't one to shy away from a challenge, and given his physical fitness level of somewhere between 1980s Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Lee, he can almost always muscle his way out of a tight spot.

As we approached the hole, we were all paddling single-file. Javan was up front and dropped straight in to start surfing. His Dagger GT sliced back and forth, the bow only submerging periodically before bursting back through. But it was clearly more of a bucking Bronco than a pony ride, and he started struggling to control his direction. That's just when Josiah was lining up to drop in. Javan darted left as the hydraulic starting moving Josiah sideways, and bam! The arrowhead-shaped bow of the GT found soft flesh between the padding of Josiah's PFD.

Josiah was in pain, yet no one but him knew just how much. We took a moment to gather the group, and then we continued down the canyon. Josiah's moans grew louder, and he slowly drifted towards the back of the pack. At one point, I think I heard him mutter "My ribs are broken." As we drove home, he started complaining the force of the wind with the windows down made his sides hurt. A few days later, he learned that he'd left the canyon with bruised ribs thanks to the unintentional contact at Third Sister with Javan's bow. He had to take a brief hiatus from paddling, but in the end we all learned two valuable facts. Never drop into a playspot if Javan is already in it. And the Third Sister is the ugliest sister! So if you ever paddle with our small group and hear someone jokingly say "Go for his ribs!," now you'll know why.



Javan Robinson tries out Matt's Fuse in the Greenhouse wave.

New Keelhauler Facebook Page From John Kobak

[Join - Try - Comment](#)

It is a closed group and anyone has to ask permission to join.

Public Lands are Priceless By Matt Kerns

Reprinted from the Cheat.org blog, Jan 31, 2017



photo by Adam Webster

On the first day of the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed budget rules that included a provision [devaluing public lands](#). By assigning no value to federal property, Congress has potentially greased the skids for transferring public lands to state or private control — those transactions would now be considered “budget neutral.” Dolly Sods. Seneca Rocks. Cranberry Wilderness. According to the House, with support from all three West Virginia Representatives, these iconic landscapes are deemed worthless.

Really?

Our federal public lands have already been bought and paid for by the taxpayer. Look no further than our mountains and rivers for examples. The Monongahela National Forest was [created](#) from owners willing to sell logged-out property so the government could rehabilitate the land. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported over \$182 million in purchases, including access along the Gauley and New Rivers and wetlands in

Canaan Valley. As the result of foresighted actions like these, every American is now a shareholder in over [620 million acres](#) of public land.

These public lands are big business. Congress commissioned a study to understand the value of outdoor recreation, currently estimated at [\\$646 billion](#). Public land is at the heart of that economy; after all, who would buy new boots or boats if they have nowhere to use them? In state, the Monongahela National Forest supports 1.3 million visitors that [spend](#) approximately \$82 million dollars annually. The New River Gorge National River provides another [\\$53 million](#) to the local economy. There is likely even more tangible value in the "ecosystem services" offered by public lands: much of West Virginia's drinking water originates in the headwaters of the Monongahela National Forest — over 300,000 thousand people get their [drinking water](#) from the Elk River alone.

The return on our investment in public lands goes far beyond dollars and cents. A rafting trip with friends, a hike with a pet, a day spent hunting and fishing with our children — how can you quantify the value of those experiences and the feelings that linger long after? Or the connectedness and sense of place that public lands offer? The "Mon" serves as a common denominator among hunters, birders, boaters, fishers, campers, RV towers, bikers, hikers, and climbers. We may enjoy the land in different ways, but every Mountaineer loves and takes pride in our public lands, the most "Wild and Wonderful" part about living in West Virginia.

The new budget rule isn't the only attack on the integrity of public lands. Bills have been introduced to allow states to seize two million acres of national forests so long

as logging is the priority ([HR 3650](#) & [HR 2316](#)). Transferring control of and developing public land is the stated [platform](#) of the party that now leads all three branches of government. Congress may very well have taken the first step in a widespread public lands divestment.

Loss of federal ownership could be detrimental to public land users like you and me. Federal lands are managed with mandatory public input and "multiple use" [provisions](#) that value clean water and recreation alongside timber and minerals. States often have different priorities. Western [sportsmen](#) have found themselves shut out of [state](#) lands following profit minded [sell-offs](#). Because the West Virginia state legislature is prohibited from passing a deficit, selling or developing state land could become a quick fix for our financial woes. Mineral rights have been auctioned off beneath some of our [Wildlife Management Areas](#).

President Trump has said we need to be stewards of public lands and it's not something that should be sold. His pick for Secretary of the Interior, Rep. Ryan Zinke, is an avid sportsman who has spoken out against selling public lands — but he [voted](#) for the new budget rule. All Representatives from West Virginia voted in favor of it too. We must hold our leadership accountable. Tell them to protect our public lands from sale or transfer.

Because worthless and priceless are far from the same thing.

Matt Kearns is a veteran and avid outdoorsman. He travelled the length of the Elk River in 2015 to promote the connection between the Monongahela National Forest and our drinking water. Matt is a natural resources graduate student at WVU and works on public lands

issues for the West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition. the Elk River alone.

Addendum:

Just weeks after Congress passed a provision making it easier to sell off public lands, a move to do just that was put forth by US Representative Jason Chaffetz (UT). H.R. 621, Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act, called for the disposal of [3.3 million acres of land](#) for sale to non-federal entities.

The public outcry was enormous. Thousands of people called their representatives and took to social media to express their outrage and rallied in opposition to the bill. Thanks to the huge numbers of engaged, outspoken public opponents, in less than one week Chaffetz [posted](#) on Instagram his withdrawal of H.R. 621.

This victory is just one example of what can happen when citizens rally together and speak out; our voices are heard, and we can protect what cannot protect itself. This will not be the only time we need to rally for our public lands, or for our water, etc. We must remain vigilant and alert. Here are a few ways to stay engaged.

Sign up for WV Rivers Coalition e-news (state and Federal updates, action alerts): <http://www.wvrivers.org/make-a-difference/join-us>

Sign up for WV Environmental Council e-news (WV updates, action alerts): <http://wvecouncil.org/action-alerts-signup/>

Join Friends of the Cheat and other groups for [E-Day](#) February 27th at the WV Capitol.

Join the [March for Science](#) on Earth Day, April 22. <https://marchforscience.com>

Contact your representatives:

US House: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

US Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

**Yearbooks have been mailed
on February 10th...**

Thanks to Jim Hunt for doing another great job!
They are mailed third class, so depending on your mail service, it may take a week or so for you to get your copy. If you do not get your copy by then let me know. [Send me an e-mail](#)

Cheat Canyon First Descent By Matt Fredmonsky



Matt, AKA "River Ninja," John "El Presidente," Hull's Angel Jason and DBP admin Jivin' Javan.

Blazing sun cut across the crisp, cold morning air. Sharp blue skies were punctuated by the undulating mountains of West Virginia. The put-in for the Cheat River Canyon was as deserted as the bare branches of the winter trees. But there was no snow; only four boaters and enough water for a low-runnable paddle down the Cheat Canyon on a cold Sunday morning in October.

For three of us, it was our first descent of the canyon. Our group leader was the unshakeable Jason R. A founding member of Hull's Angels, the initiation for joining his paddling group is to beat up a member of the Keelhaulers. Fortunately, we had him outnumbered at three-to-one. So he agreed to guide us down the canyon after having spent countless days on the Cheat (including the two days before our trip).

Jason has been paddling big water for a few seasons. Just weeks before our trip, he'd already had numerous marathon runs on the Gauley River (upper, middle and lower runs). The Tygart Gorge, Lower Big Sandy and New River Gorge were all old news to Jason. So it shouldn't have come as a surprise when he started calling specific named rapids on the Cheat Canyon "no-name" or "choose your own adventure." Maybe because we had him outnumbered as Keelhaulers that was how he took a shot at the club-boater rivalry. Of course, we were grateful when he would rally us before the big ones - Teardrop, Coliseum and Pete Morgan - to show us the lines gracefully and flawlessly.

We had fewer than four combat rolls and no swims. Our paddling group consisted of just John Banach, Javan Robinson, Jason and myself. We made it a day-trip, so counting the long shuttle we spent at least eight hours in a car for maybe three hours on the water. It was

beyond worth it. The Cheat Canyon is a special place where green water meets red rock, purple mountains, blue skies and of course seemingly endless frothy whitewater. The picture of the Class II approach into the Canyon from the put-in at Albright, where ghostly pillars stretch across the river without a bridge deck to give them purpose, is forever burned into my memory.

For three of us, it was another notch on our rescue belt. For me, the Cheat was my second personal first descent for 2016, and it was by far the biggest. Another epic trip that I will never forget. I can't wait to go back for Cheat Fest in 2017 and get more days on the water in this beautiful piece of Americana.



The view from the take out bridge at the Cheat River Canyon.

Indoor Pool Sessions for 2017

Link to roll session information:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/Instruction/#pool>


For more Pool information contact:

Josiah Colvin karmannghia_68@hotmail.com 330-671-0910

For Sale

Priojon Yukon Expedition sea kayak (german made). 14' 9". HTTP hull, watertight holds. Includes; paddles, cockpit cover, spray skirt, throw bag, deck compass and rudder. Very good condition. \$625.00.

Don Winton, Chardon, Ohio. 440 285 2371

March	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
3/4	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 pm		Glen Baker	216-403-7820
3/11	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4:00-6:00 PM		Josiah Colvin	330-671-0910
3/11,12	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Brent Hendren	330-414-2063
3/12-19	Southern Rivers - TN, NC OR if there is good water in WV we can go there.	22-32	Dave Herron	513-681-4075
TBD	Club Monthly Meeting Cancelled.		John Banach	330-606-5032
3/19	(1) Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
3/26	(1) Vermilion Race (OH) 	SK/FW	Jon Reising	440-967-9507
	Alternate Date 4/2			
April	For More Trips - Check our Message Board			
4/1,2	WV Class V Creeking	>30	Needs organizer	
4/8	Swiftwater Rescue Class (PA) Ramcat Rapid - Middle Yough at Paddler's Lane Campground ACA Level 3 one day course		JimJen Sollosi	412-496-8672
4/8	(1) Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	Doug Lyons	740-317-7007
4/8,9 4/29,30	(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	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/8,9	(4) Stonycreek River Release (PA)	21	Needs organizer	
4/11	Club Monthly Meeting at Brick House Tavern, 581 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221		John Banach	330-606-5032
4/14-21	(4) Easter Southern Rivers Trip TN,NC,SC,GA	22-32	Needs organizer	
4/15	(3) Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Mark Spang	440-522-0520
4/15,16	(3) N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
4/16 or 4/23	(1) Grand River (OH)	SK/FW	Andy Gross	216-321-9284
4/21	Upper Yough (MD)	32	FIFO Trip	440-554-1383

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

2017 Club Officers

President	John Banach	330-606-5032
VP:	Don Howdysell	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

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 April issue of the newsletter is 3/23/17. Please send articles to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com

March, 2017 

