

Keelhauler's Ka-news NOVEMBER, 2014



Next Club Meeting Tuesday, November 11th

Club Meeting - Program: TBD

Doors open at 7:00 PM, Meeting is at 8:00 PM.
at Middleburg Hts Community Center, 16000 E. Bagley Rd

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

By Karl Nelson



My interest in whitewater began at an early age. When I was five [Eisenhower was president], I saw a black & white TV show about rafting the Grand Canyon. I thought that would be fun.

Almost 35 years later, my wife signed me up for a whitewater canoe course at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and then went to visit her mother in Olympia, WA. When she came back, there was a big red Dagger Legend in the living room. My son and I managed to paddle it around the world without leaving the apartment. We progressed to the flat water creeks and class II rivers in Alabama and Tennessee. This was followed by canoe camping trips with the Boy Scouts. When my son went to college, I couldn't find anyone to paddle bow, so I made the transition to a solo canoe.

Eventually I ended up in Canton, OH and joined the Keelhaulers Canoe Club in 2000. After many trips down the Lower Yough—rarely without an out-of-boat experience—I told Sherie I would lead the August trip when she couldn't make it. Little did I know it would lead to my current position as club president.

The members of the KHCC in attendance at the club meeting at the Middleburg Heights Community Center on 14-October, as well as e-mail votes from those unable to attend, ratified the slate of officers for 2015. The current board includes:

President:	Karl Nelson	Trustee:2013-2015	Jim Hunt
Vice President:	Dave Roush	Trustee:2014-2016	Chuck McDowell
Treasurer:	Pam Poljak	Trustee:2015-2017	Michael Duvall
Secretary:	Donna Homberg		

These persons have volunteered to be stewards of the traditions of the Keelhauler Canoe Club. We will need the members of the Keelhauler Canoe Club to help us pass those traditions onto the next generation of paddlers of all kinds.

2015 Membership Dues are Overdue

All club memberships have expired on October 1st.

The club has almost 300 family memberships.

But, only about half have renewed their membership so far.

So, if you haven't gotten around to it, **DO IT TODAY!**

I will be travelling and unable to receive your check after November 10th.

You can use any credit card or a Paypal account and renew using this link:

<http://keelhauler.org/thanks.htm>

OR

If you still want to mail a check please send a \$20 check for your **2015 Membership Dues**

To:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

But remember if I don't get your check by 11/10/14 you may not be listed in the 2015 Yearbook & Roster.

To check whether or not I have received you renewal, check this updated file:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint.pdf>

This file is password protected for your security.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2014 password found on page 20 of our yearbook or in our monthly newsletter e-mail. If the last column by your name says 4 and not 5, then you are not recorded as paid for 2015.

John Kobak - Membership Chairman

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

Work on the 2015 Yearbook is starting. Photographs are always needed. If you have taken photographs this year that you think would be good yearbook candidates, e-mail them to me or send me a link to your online files. Note that at times I have problems receiving files via Apple Mail.

Photos need to be in .jpg format and be larger than 500 kb in file size. Generally photos from digital cameras are better than those from cell phones.

Make sure for each photo you also send me: who took the photo, who is in the photo, what river the photo was taken on, and what rapid/stretch it was taken on.

Jim Hunt

jhunt4115@yahoo.com

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES October 14, 2014 at Middleburg Heights Recreation Center Respectfully submitted by Donna Homberg

12 people in attendance

New member Bill Alford

Chair Reports

Membership - John Kobak-101 paid for 2015 and current membership is at 295 at this present time.
Yearbook - Please send pictures to Jim Hunt.

Unfinished Business

The slate of officers voted and accepted by a quorum vote.

President - Karl Nelson

Vice President - Dave Rousch

Treasurer - Pam Poljak

Secretary - Donna Homberg

Trustees - Jim Hunt, Chuck McDowell, Mike Duvall

New Business

Dave Rousch reported that every other weekend releases on the Stony will occur thanks to benscreekcanoecub.com that will pay for the overtime hours needed for the management of this reservoir. Check their webpage for release dates and donations to their Whitewater valve program.

Trip Reports

Jim Hunt reported on an additional 9 day Southern Rivers trip posted on the message board. This started with 4 people and increased to 9. They did the Upper Nantahala, Upper Green, the Ocoee (3X), Nolichucky and the New River.

Jim also reported on the Lower Yough Fall Colors trip with 23 paddlers on Sat. (4 canoes and 19 kayaks) and on Sun. with 19 boaters (1 canoe and 18 kayaks).

Carl Homberg commented on the World Canoe and Kayak Championships held at the ASCI (adventure sports center international) course in Deep Creek, Md. Impressive to watch the negotiation of gates and the expertise needed for a competitive course. He reviewed the club's involvement in the past with slalom racing on the Yough. Video of USA First Place ~~winner in C1~~ - Fabien Lefevre:

Last comments were to watch for impromptu Slippery Rock trips and future pool sessions at Orange and Lakewood Pools.

Meeting was adjourned.

CONSERVATION

By Jim Hunt

The Mountain Watershed Association is holding its annual fund raiser for the Yough Defense Fund on November 20th in Ohiopyle at the Falls City Pub.

This is a fund raiser mostly for legal work for protecting the Yough watershed from Yough Lake downstream. Most of the legal work involves coal mining and fracking near the river or tributaries. The cost is \$20 and there is also a silent auction. I have been to this event numerous times and there is good live music, lot of food, and plenty of items to bid on. If you can't attend but would like to donate, use the following link: <http://www.mtwatershed.com/give/>.

HOUSE BILL 1565

On October 22nd, Gov. Tom Corbett approved H.B. 1565 which changed DEP requirements for buffer zones along our most valuable streams and lakes, including wild trout streams. If you'd like to see who sponsored the bill, how it moved through the legislation, and who voted for changing what was known as The Clean Stream Law, go to <http://legiscan.com/PA/bill/HB1565/2013>.

Friendsville (Upper Yough) Parking Lot Update – from AW

By Jim Hunt

The Friendsville, Maryland paddler parking lot is being finished. This lovely town of 500 people is doing what it can to accommodate the hundreds of paddlers who arrive here for summer releases on the Upper Youghiogheny River. The project owes much to the vision and leadership of long-time resident Jess Whittemore and the support of Mayor Spencer R. Schlosnagle and Town Council. American Whitewater helped paddlers raise \$25,000 towards the lot and this "seed money" has helped attract over \$200,000 in grants! The project proved more difficult than expected; after one grant application was turned down the grass field was opened this past summer while the lot was redesigned and rolled into a different grant that included a number of improvements in town. This contouring and graveling work constitutes phase 1 of the parking lot project. Phase 2 - additional graveled spaces will be added when funding becomes available. We thank Friendsville for their persistence, and their ongoing support of Upper Yough whitewater boating.

Algonquin Adventure August 2014

By Lisa Brand

Adventurers:

Sue Taft; Lisa Brand and Eric Tucker; Harold and Elaine Marsh

Adventure:

Five of us set out in 3 canoes in Algonquin Park on a sunny cool breezy morning. We paddled and portaged from lake to lake, until we were deep in the wilderness. It was a whole lot of work but worth every step, and misstep, through boot-sucking mud, over thick gnarled tree roots, rocks, grass, sand and shrubs. For the first two nights we made camp on an island and had the lake all to ourselves. There was a perfect swimming rock jutting out over a point on the island into the water; we gave it a work out!

On the third day we portaged again, to another isolated lake, and had that lake all to ourselves too for the next few days. Well, not really. We shared the space with ospreys, owls, mergansers, moose, mice, martens (cute!) mosquitoes (not cute!) leeches (really not cute!), loons, wolves (howling at night). No bears. Only bares (swimming). Constant birdsong. Spectacular! Elaine and Harold had quite the ear, identifying many birds by their songs.

I had dehydrated and vacuum packed all our breakfasts and dinners; meals for 5 people for 6 days in the wilderness. We ate like royalty! My trusty rope with pulley (a much used gift from a friend years ago who put it together for me after I admired his on one of our kayak trips) kept our food hoisted and out of harm's way overnight, defying bears, raccoons and other hungry critters. Mice and chipmunk did manage to chew through some of our rope around camp one night, and once after dinner I watched as an army of ants took off with the crumbs from our corn bread. Bon appetit!

We explored squiggly rivers and creeks buried deep in marshland and had to carry our canoes over fallen trees. We did some acrobatics to accomplish that! We saw beautiful blue wild irises; a rainbow of delicate red, yellow, orange and white blossoms; and carnivorous pitcher plants. Bright lime-green inchworms slowly danced their way across our paths. We did our own dance, high stepping over piles of moose droppings. Eric and I gave a lift to a large orange spotted butterfly that stayed in our canoe for 1/2 hour, flitting back and forth between our sleeves. I think we offered it some wind protection. The wind was fierce at times and seemed to change with us as we changed directions. It always managed to smack us right in the face.

The whole week long I admired Sue's wood strip canoe with Kevlar interior, and perfectly pitched foot braces, which she finished making from scratch just prior to the trip. She's quite the craftsman. This was its maiden voyage and it performed perfectly! Now I covet another friend's bent shaft wood paddle with a precisely carved anatomic palm grip, which he urged us to borrow for the trip and which I now prefer over my T-grip straight shaft. Uh oh....I see some more gear in my future!

We packed up camp on the last morning with a fine wet mist reminding us what great weather we'd had all week. After a day of paddling, portaging and picnicking we returned to the put-in. Upon our return, cold (OK... sort of cool) beer and wine awaited us in the cooler in the car. Ahhhh - the end to a perfect adventure.

Did I say perfect? Well... that night at the campground we got drenched in a torrential rainstorm. Sue ripped open her cheap rain poncho that she had bought at the start of the trip and used it under

her sleeping bag so she wouldn't float away. Eric and I cuddled up, warm in our sleeping bags, with a plastic bag and towel under one end, not daring to peek out at the puddles. Harold and Elaine didn't manage to get their tent up before it was soaked inside and out, so they slept in their car. They drank a bunch of wine before they went to sleep and reported that it helped very nicely.

Longest portage: 1/3 mile. Maximum number of portages/day: 4. Most fun: infinite!

Saving Pennsylvania's bats

Borrowed without permission from www.iConservePA.org.

Pennsylvania's bat populations need help. Decimated in recent years by the White-Nose Syndrome, population numbers of hibernating bat species are only a fraction of what they were a decade ago. Bats perform a critical pest control function for our environment, and their dramatic decline has tremendous financial implications. Our 3.8 million acres of state park, state forests and state game lands provide vital habitat to sustain bats, and a recent \$675,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will help to support future conservation planning for bats on public lands in Pennsylvania. The grant, coupled with an earlier grant, will allow the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pa. Game Commission to develop a conservation plan to address impacts to federally-listed bats in Pennsylvania from forest management practices on state park, forest and game lands. The agencies anticipate drafts will be available in summer 2015. The plan will cover forest management activities such as removing trees for regeneration, harvesting damaged trees, maintaining trails and roads and conducting prescribed fires, and it will outline how to effectively minimize and mitigate impacts on protected bats. More information on the Pennsylvania Habitat Conservation Plan is available [here](#). This [video](#), the *Race to Save Pennsylvania's Bats*, explains White-Nose Syndrome in detail.



Directions to all KH Roll Session locations are on the website under "Instruction".

November	For More Trips - Check our Message Board		Pay Dues	
11/1	(3) Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
11/8	KH Roll Session at Orange pool - 4-6:00 PM		Marius Asipauskas	216-200-6321
11/9,16,23,30	KH Roll Session at Meyers Lake YMCA pool - 8:45 -10:45 AM		Jeff Cramer	330-245-6252
11/11	Club Monthly Meeting at Middleburg Hts		Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
11/22	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool - 3:00-5:00 PM, doors open at 2:45pm		Marius Asipauskas	216-200-6321

2014 Club Officers

President: Karl Nelson 330-497-2483
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 **December issue of the newsletter is **11/24/14**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

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November, 2014

