

# Keelhauler's Kanews SEPTEMBER, 2010



## Next Club Meeting Tuesday, September 14th at 7:30 PM

at Middleburg Hts Community Center  
16000 E. Bagley Rd

**Program: To be announced**

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

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

## Ask Not What Your Club Can Do For You!

By

*Keel Haulers Officers and Trustees*

With all due respect to John F. Kennedy, in his 1961 inaugural speech, he was talking about you! Back then he talked about the takers and the givers, the whiners and the doers and what it meant to the country and society. When it comes to a vibrant club we need the same kind of thinking. We have a great club that by many measures is one of the best in the country. It did not get that way by the will of the takers and whiners; it was the givers and doers that built our club. Over the last 40 years many have helped in big and small ways to build on the foundation that our club founders created. In October you will be asked to raise your hand and vote for the people that will be leading our club for the next year. Right now we need people to step up and offer their enthusiasm, thoughts, and energy.

So what column are you in? If you have enjoyed one of our scheduled trips, or learned some critical boating skills from a fellow club member, or maybe you periodically rely on and enjoy the wealth of information on our web site, our news letter, and message board. If any on those apply to you then you need to put an X next to your name under the Taker's column. If you are one of the people that complain to your fellow boater about this or

that about the club, then you need to put an X under the Whiner column. Now if you have given your fellow boater some boating advice, or helped run a shuttle, maybe you have volunteered to be a trip organizer, wrote an article for the newsletter, helped out at an event, offered to be an committee chair, an officer, a trustee, then you can put an X next to your name under the Giver and Doer column.

All of us have an X, maybe a few or a lot of Xs under the Taker column, the question is how many Xs do you have under the Givers column? There are several dozen people in the club that have many Xs in the givers column... but there are hundred's of people in the club. So the open question is how can this club get you to put a few more Xs in the givers column?

All of us who are reading this have enjoyed something that the club has provided us. We are now looking for new committee chairs and officers. You don't need any special skills, it does not take a lot of time, and you don't need to be an experienced boater, you do not even have to come to meetings! Some our most enthusiastic volunteers are new boaters who are anxious to give back to the people and club that have helped them succeed and shown them a new world of excitement of being on the water and the awe of what nature hides from those who live in the cocoon of suburbia or the work-a-day world..

If you are thinking that you would like to help out, give Cliff Wire a call and talk to him about ways, big and small, that you can put more Xs in the Giver column. We can't pay you, but you will be rewarded in direct proportion to your contribution. You can reach Cliff at: 440 439-6541 or email: [cwire64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwire64@sbcglobal.net).

*Officers and Trustees: Cliff Wire, Michael Duvall, Pat Guzowski, Terry Markoff, Rob Hammond, Jim Hunt and Ed Charlton*

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## Upper Yough by Corey Spoores

It started on a mountain bike ride a few weeks ago, while riding with a few of the guys from the Wednesday Night Paddle Crew. Jon remarked that he was going to be moving out of the state. Within a few days an email was passed around about where his last hurrah would be, the ideas were flying the New River, Upper Yough, Upper Gulley, and the likes all made the list. Jon and the

crew ran the New earlier this season and that was out I really wanted to run the Upper Yough, but they were beginning to lean toward the Gulley as an overnigher. I began to collect info for the Gulley at 630 cfs as that was the flow, and all information came back looking like a creek "suck fest". As the plan began to emerge further I started to send out some feelers for the Upper Yough. There was just something about running the Gulley with a boat stuffed with camping gear I did not like.

The Deep Creek Hydro Plant releases water on Friday, Saturday, and Mondays throughout the summer paddle season as long as the lake levels fall above the "rules curve". I made plans to meet some of the guys from pool session on Friday and then join the KHCC trip on Saturday.

I met Dave (Uncle D.) and Becky (Binky) in Friendsville under the highway bridge and after a short while John (Smoltz) pulled up and we hit the road to the put in off Sang road. There was a few more who met us the ride down the river at the put in. Before long we were stretching and gearing up waiting on water. The put in gauge read 2.10 ft as I paddled past it to white rock, the first two miles of the river are mostly flat water and you end up passing the flow on the way. So we pulled out at white rock so the crew could take a safety break, as the water began to rise.

I received several words of wisdom on my two days at the Upper Yough, but I think the most encouraging thing for me was the patience of the F.I.F.O. crew when I needed to let several gallons of water out of my boat which at that time was for an unknown reason. When we pealed out from white rock the gradient of the river began to pick up and the flow gathered some push, and the river tightened. I followed Smoltz and Uncle D., while Binky ran sweep for me as my river skills were still yet undetermined with the FIFO crew.



**Boof at Bastard**

Smoltz and Uncle D were hand paddling the river and I was following their lines that years on the river created. Uncle D told me that were going to hit some class III boogie water after the first named rapid, Gap Falls. Gap Falls came and went it was more like a power slide, with a nice wave train to finish. As we began to pick our way down the boogie water section I found myself catching some hard eddy's and tough ferry's making my way past big and little pour over rocks. I remember thinking that this "boogie water" was pretty tough and what have I got myself into? Before I knew it I was catching the eddy above Bastard. The crew took off leaving me with their only words on line choice, "Right Boof, catch the eddy and work left and back right, if you flip hurry back up and into an eddy." That seemed to be the Matura on the

whole river; too much down time is not good, besides you won't see any fish with rocks hitting you in the face.

Bastard seemed to come and go, and next up was **Charlie's Choice**.



I continued to follow like a small duck, to the right this time and back left after a nice boof. Charlie's Choice is followed by Triple Drop and then by National Falls. All went by rather uneventfully, and we pulled out at **National Falls** to watch some carnage from those who either missed their boof or tried the race line. Missing your line here means that you are going to be sucked back into the monster of a hole and chewed on and if you're lucky spit out before a second round of hydraulic beat down can begin.



It was wicked good fun! The pool from National Falls to Tommy's Hole is probably the largest on the upper section, giving you a false sense of "I think I can see this line, and it looks easy." You know there is a reason it is called dimple with an attitude. As the FIFO crew moved around to safety positions, I was left with another whisper of advice, this time from John G (Boy Genius). B.G. remarked "It looks worse than it really is, if you flip don't swim." Little did B.G. know that had been my game plan for this whole river, I nodded and I set off.

Sometimes you just know when you are going to eat shit, this was just not one of those times. I no sooner got my bow facing the exit of the shoot, and I was over taken by white water. Inundated by the roar of whirly swirly water, the washing machine effect on my whole boat; I tucked as tight to the deck as I knew how. I was

searching for the air on my knuckles or a sense of calm on my paddle blades.

From the pool below I was told afterwards it looked like a magical sight, big yellow boat sideways to the hole, surfing. I was surfing pretty good too from the way I understand it, the FIFO crew explained in all their years on the river they have never seen such magical side surf while upside down in Tommy's Hole.

I never felt the calm water on the whole boat but I did find it on my blades, and roll I did, right out of the hole and into the pool below. From Tommy's on down to Heinzerling there are a few named rapids, they were mostly a blur obscured by right boof, left boof, and hole punching. We took the right main line towards Heinzerling, This was a tight slot move into a swift pool, and up ahead was Gun Barrel. This is a tight V-slot with a slight bend at the end to catch a one boat eddy that we somehow squeezed three creek boats into for the instructions on the **Heinzerling** move.



Picture a large round rock, about the size of 15 VW Bugs, with fair amount of flow pillowing up on the front, and beat down hole to the upstream left. The trick is to ride the pillow up and off. Always lean towards the rock. This was that move I saw coming for me and my boat as soon as I started, I leaned away, with a slow motion flip and roll I was back and eddied out waiting for whatever was to come next.

Again there was some more of that great class III boogie water on down to Meat Cleaver. This drop and Cheese Burger are my favorites so far, Meat Cleaver is a nice slow straight boof into a slow moving pool. Depending on your angle when you land you can either eddy out or keep on creeping to the edge of the next hole, the Cleaver brothers. At the lip it looks like two triangle rock set in the flow 6' apart from each other. Placed in the middle of a nice wide hole, you want to paddle anywhere but into the Cleavers.

Meat Cleaver is followed by **Powerful Popper**, a hole so sweet that it will squirt a creek boat, and then on to Tombstone. Tombstone is similar to main line at Climax on the Russell Fork, in that it is a



sieved out under cut rock that wants to eat you. But it is easy enough to avoid, if you make it though the double diagonal hole that points you toward an awesome drop, without rolling hit the far right or far left with a good boof stroke and you will have avoided Fuck up falls.

Next on the list was Cheeseburger, a nice 10' falls with a pretty line to boof on river right. By this time in the trip I was smiling from ear to ear, wondering what was next. But with only a few more name drops to go we were close to the end of the road so speak. The rafts were now gaining on us. The remainder of the river passed without incident or pause. As I neared the highway bridge at the take out I was pumped and totally sold on this run, tight and technical in all the right places. If you want to paddle here have a good roll and sold skills. The river passed so quickly Friday that it felt like I was only out there an hour and the holes seemed as large as Mack trucks. Saturdays run was uneventful but it reassured my skills and the lines on the river, it seemed to shrink the holes and ledges back to reality and set the time line in its place. Saturday I was able to see the river for what it really was and to be a good paddler I would have to go there often. So who is next and when do you want to go?

Pictures by Jeff Macklin

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## Sea Kayaking Lake Nipigon June 2010

By Jim Hunt

In June of this year, I had the opportunity to lead a 12 day sea kayaking trip on Lake Nipigon in western Ontario (Canada). There were 7 of us and we used four sea kayaks, 3 doubles and one single.

Lake Nipigon is about 60 miles long and 36 miles wide. There is only road access in the lower third of the lake. The northern two thirds is rarely visited by anyone and the lake has never been charted so there are no marine charts of the lake. It is the largest lake in Ontario and the 36<sup>th</sup> largest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Nipigon is the starting point for water flowing into the Great Lakes and out the St Lawrence Seaway. There are many islands in Nipigon but not many campsites and very dense woods on most shorelines. Most campsites were on beaches and with the

water about 1.5 feet below normal, many beaches had opened up. At high water, campsites would be very hard to find.



Typical Beach Campsite

The route was about 160 miles in length and was in the northern two thirds of Lake Nipigon. The trip started on the east side of the lake near Beardmore and finished on the west side of the lake just south of the Gull River First Nation Reservation. There were no portages on the trip and we saw no other people on the lake. Prior to the trip, I had found a few logs from other paddlers who had paddled the lake and all talked about the lack of campsites and rapid weather changes. The map of the lake posted at the launch site in Beardmore showed a few campsites in the lake but most did not exist.

The first three days were spent paddling north along the east shore. Luckily the winds were either light/moderate or from the tail. It was here that we needed to start getting comfortable with long open water crossings on the big lake. These crossings make me nervous due to the possibility of sudden weather changes when far from shore and cold water. All the crossings went fine and we started getting use to padding in waves of up to 3 feet.

There is a large bay in the northeast corner of the lake called Ombabika Bay. On the maps it looked like a interesting place to explore and it would be somewhat sheltered from wind and waves. We spent two days exploring the bay and it was indeed pretty but there were no decent campsites. In fact, the worst campsites of the trip were in Ombabika Bay.

From here we headed out into the middle of the lake into the islands. Certainly islands would have plenty of campsites. We spent the next three day exploring the islands again with some long open water crossings but still no wind or wave problems. The islands were the home of Woodland Caribou and Moose, both of which we saw. There were a few decent campsites in the islands but not many. It was somewhat disconcerting to not be able to see the mainland from some of the islands.

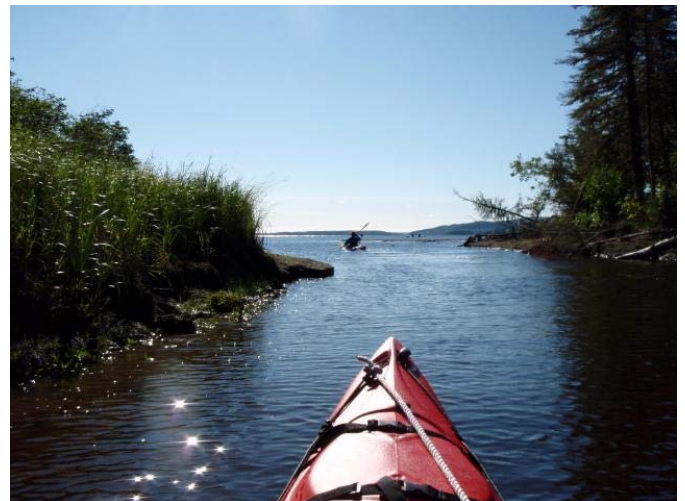
Next we headed northwest with the intent of checking out some of the connected lakes up in the corner of Nipigon. It was here we got our first taste of how fast the weather can change on Nipigon. About mid morning we had been paddling in light rain and light winds. We set out on a short (two mile) crossing and about half way across, the wind shifted to the north and came way up quickly as it started raining hard. We fought the wind and waves until we found a poor beach campsite about an hour later. We were all cold

and quickly set up the tents just behind the beach in some long grass. By then we were all wet as well as cold and hypothermic. We spent the next 4 hours in the tents in sleeping bags trying to stay warm while listening to the rain, wind and pounding waves. Around dinner time the rain quit but we still had cold, wind and waves. The next day, more of the same less rain so we could not move but we did manage to dry out clothes and sleeping bags.



Drying Gear With No Trees

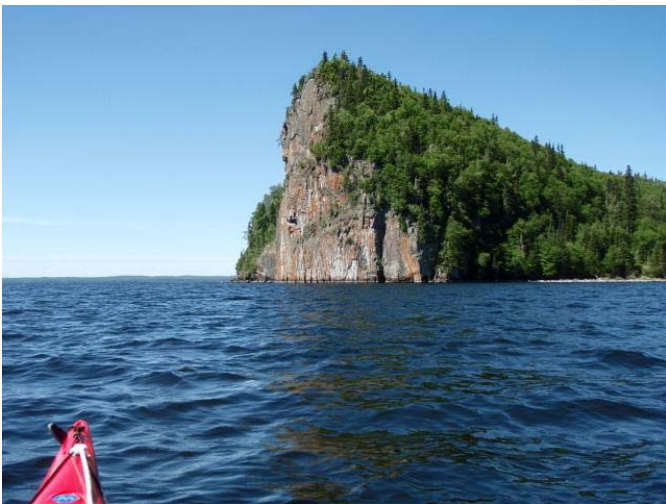
Finally after a day and a half windbound, we headed further north in great weather to check out Wabinoosh Lake. It turned out the stream going there was small and had rapids with no portage trails so we turned back. We had been planning to check out this area as a possible access point for future trips.



Stream From Lake Wabinoosh

We managed to paddle back out to a large island and found a great campsite in a sheltered cove that appeared to be an old commercial fishing camp. We had paddled in the highest wind and waves of the trip and I was certainly nervous as my boat was getting knocked around and had waves breaking on it.

The next morning there was still high winds and waves but by noon they were gone and we headed west toward our pickup point. It was here we passed some huge cliffs in the Undercliff Channel.



Undercliff Channel

After the cliffs, we had our longest open water crossing of the trip - 8 miles. The weather stayed sunny with a light side wind as we headed for our last campsite of the trip. We did manage to find the well hidden campsite we were looking for that was reported as being used by an outfitter on their kayak trips. Obviously, they had not been there this year.

The next day we woke to moderate wind and big waves with a 3 mile open water crossing waiting for us. Since our pickup was to be late, we waited. Finally in late afternoon the wind dropped and we took off with a side wind and moderate waves. This turned out to be the most dangerous crossing of the trip as the wind and waves along the way. We made it to our pickup point and checked waves came back up as we were making the crossing. We all made it but one double boat nearly flipped and I was washed by many in by sat phone to find the truck would be a day late due to a flat tire and Canada Day. So, we made camp at the end of the road along with the RV's and fisherman and spend a great night with real food

(courtesy of the fisherman), spring water, and a not-smelly outhouse.



Author At The End Of the Trip - Gear Drying

In all it was a great trip. No portages, few bugs and good weather. No flipped boats, no bear problems and seeing some wildlife. We saw no other people or boats in the 12 days on the water. The challenges I expected being on a large lake were not as bad as expected. The remoteness and size of Nipigon and well as the lack of access points assures that Lake Nipigon will remain an untouched sea kayaking area for years to come.

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September				
9/3 - 5	Raquette/Beaver (NY)	27-35	<a href="#">Matt Muir</a>	585-421-9826
9/10, 11	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	<a href="#">Jim Hunt</a>	330-335-5203
9/11, 12	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	<a href="#">John Kobak</a>	440-871-1758
9/14	Club Meeting at <a href="#">Middleburg Hts Community Center</a>		<a href="#">Joe Marksz</a>	216-281-1517
9/17-19	Upper Gauley ( <a href="#">Festival Weekend</a> ) (WV)	27-33	<a href="#">Cliff Wire</a>	440-439-6541
9/17-19	(5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27	<a href="#">Terry Markoff</a>	440-543-4969
9/25, 26	Upper & (5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	<a href="#">Elliott Drysdale</a>	216-496-4182 C
9/26	(5) Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
October			Time to Pay Dues	
10/1, 2	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
10/2, 3	Upper & (5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	<a href="#">Bill Miller</a>	440-257-2970
10/9, 10	Upper & (5) Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	<a href="#">Dave Herron</a>	513-681-4075
10/12	Club Annual Election of Officers at <a href="#">Middleburg Hts</a>		<a href="#">Joe Marksz</a>	216-281-1517
10/15-17	<a href="#">Moose River Fest</a> (NY)	27-30	<a href="#">Matt Muir</a>	585-421-9826
10/16	New River Bridge Day (WV) Paddle under the bridge and take-out at Hawk's Nest	27	<a href="#">Phil &amp; Jen Raber</a>	740-498-7063
10/16, 17	(4) Lower Yough (PA)	23	<a href="#">Sherie Sanzenbacher</a>	440-298-1293
10/16, 17	(2) Middle Yough (PA)	12	<a href="#">Needs organizer</a>	
10/23,24	Russell Fork Fest paddle above Breaks (WV)	26	<a href="#">Cecil Tickamyer</a>	814-234-1062

## 2010 Club Officers

President: Cliff Wire 440-439-6541  
VP: Michael Duvall 216-521-0094  
Secretary: Pat Guzowski 216-780-5734  
Treasurer: Terry Markoff 440-543-4969

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**

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. Call or mail before the last Saturday of each month. 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 **October** issue of the newsletter is **9/21/10**.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at [peetzaguy@aol.com](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com) or [peetzaguy@comcast.net](mailto:peetzaguy@comcast.net).

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**September, 2010**

