

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

JULY, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

Saturday, July 31st

Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins

Please mark your calendar for our club picnic and our next club meeting on July 31 at <https://bennersmeadowrun.com/> campground in Ohiopyle, PA. This will be a very important meeting as we will be voting in our next club President. Camping (tents/car) spots have been reserved, so please make sure you sign up for the weekend via our website.

This weekend is a great weekend for paddlers of all abilities, trips will be running on the Middle Yough, Lower Yough, Upper Yough, and a Ladies only paddle. If there is water, Stonycreek releases are also scheduled for Saturday and Sunday! Our Saturday meeting will be a Potluck Picnic. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, ~~corn~~ tableware, and soft drinks. For the rest of the menu, please donate an item according to your last name:

A-E: Dessert or Fruit

F-L: Potato or Macaroni Salad

M-R: Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

S-Z: Chips or Appetizer

Contact: Mike Gillam if you have any questions . . . 440-328-5547.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

Invite a prospective member.

President's Message From Mike Gillam



And just like that, it is July! Rivers, lakes, woods, bike paths, campgrounds, just about any outdoor venue is busy. While I can't think of too many good things to come out of COVID, it does appear it forced many people to get back to recreating outside and close to home. Anything that gets people playing outside is good, good for physical health and mental health.

Looking back over the last couple years, with the time and efforts of our members, our club has continued to evolve in the direction that members expressed. If you remember back to the survey that was completed by you all in 2018 (or was it 2019?) club priorities (as listed by members) were Swift Water Rescue, Intermediate Paddler Progression, Creeking Instruction, Clinics, and Beginner Paddler Progression. The website issue was almost split between building a new website, keeping the old website, or keeping both. Almost 50% of the respondents had 0-5 years paddling experience at the time of the survey. While the club continues to grow and evolve, our progression towards these priorities is as follows;

Between H2O Dreams and Charlie Walbridge's SWR course, our club has helped almost forty kayakers train in swift water rescue!

At the first Cuyahoga (Lock 29) club paddle, I think we had 17 paddlers (13 new paddlers)! I was expecting three or four... These paddlers are now running (at least) weekly paddles on this section of the river. Many of these paddlers progressed to the Slip, then LOYO, and to more difficult rivers.

We have been organizing weekly trips to the Slippery Rock Creek

We began to offer free winter roll sessions at specific locations. I expect these locations will continue to grow. Seeing a need, Brian Smart began organizing weekly outdoor roll sessions at two local outdoor locations. .

A new website was developed and implemented by a skilled team of members. As expressed to me by many members, the quality and functionality of the new site was much appreciated.

70% of the survey respondents said that club trips and events were the main reason for being members. Club trips only happen if we have volunteers organize them. I was told of the difficulty in getting trip organizers three or four years ago, and it has only gotten worse. Covid certainly did not help. However, I would expect that many new members will start taking an active role and organize at least one trip. I do believe that future SWR participants will be required to organize at least one trip. It is what makes us a successful club.

I will be stepping down as club president, effective July 31 (club picnic). Brian Smart will be recommended as the new president. We will be having an official vote, July 31, at the club picnic. For those who cannot attend and want to vote, please contact a board member with your vote. As per the bylaws, the new president will hold an October meeting. In September the board will present recommendations for club officer openings, which currently will consist of the vice president position and one trustee.

Kelly Miller had our new club logo stickers printed and had two mailed out to all club member

Play Outside and I hope to see you in July!

**Special Keel-hauler Membership Prices
now available!
From John Kobak**

**Special KHCC Membership Prices are now available!
It is nearing the end of our membership year.**

Tell your non-member friends & paddling buddies if they join now, they **Save 50%**. So instead of paying for a \$20/membership for 2021, they can pay only \$10. But, if they also pay for 2022, Instead of a \$40/membership cost for 2021-22, they can pay only \$26. They just fill out our [Registration Form](#), and their payment options will be displayed.

All existing members can start paying their 2022 dues now, no need to submit an application.

Pay your 2022 Dues or pay for 2022 and 2023 and save \$4.00, by using this link [EZPay](#)

90 Members have already paid for 2022, so please disregard if you are already paid for 2022

You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **1**, then you are paid for 2021. If it shows **12**, you paid for 2022 also. The file is password protected for members only.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2021 password which is sent out in our monthly e-mail.

Remember all 2021 memberships expire on Oct 1, 2021.

I hope to be at the club meeting on 7/31 at Benner's, so you can also pay your dues there. I'll have extra club logo stickers that are free for asking.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of June 28, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,316.81
CD 1077	<u>\$2,316.26</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,633.07

Checking \$13,757.59

Total \$17,390.66

**Conservation News
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

I understand and appreciate that our members come from all over North America. Several members have asked me why the Cuyahoga River is important to our members and the nation at large. The answer is that the 1969 burning event on the Cuyahoga River caught the attention of our nation. Unfortunately, rivers on fire were a common event in urban areas in the 1960s. This particular fire just happened to be featured in a very popular edition of Times Magazine. People were appalled to learn that US waters were so contaminated with pollutants that a river could catch on fire. They demanded change. Environmental laws don't happen in a vacuum, this catastrophe provided an impetus for the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act.

I am proud that the Keel-Haulers support local organizations like Friends of the Crooked River as they advocate for fishable, swimmable waters. By the time you read this, the Cuyahoga River Day celebrations will be over. The Keel-Haulers will have participated in a cleanup of this historic river. If you didn't make it to this cleanup, please clean up the river you paddle. Register any and all cleanups with our partners at American Rivers. I hope to see you on a clean river soon!

Family Friendly Summer Picnic

Calling parents and non-whitewater paddlers! Please contact Jacki Zevenbergen at jackizeven@gmail.com to join in our planning for flatwater paddling and other family friendly activities during the summer meeting at Benner's. PM me on Facebook or use the directory for contact information. We should have plenty of flatwater members to set up flatwater trips and non-paddling members to set up non-paddling activities (including lounging by the pool). Some Keel-Hauler parents might like to take their kids on the river while others may just want to hike and let their kids enjoy the [campground amenities](#) like swimming, miniature golf, playground and a game room. Please help us plan a nice event for every member.

Early May Kent Run Doesn't Disappoint By Matt Fredmonsky

I have been unable to paddle consistently for 8 months due to a knee injury, surgery and subsequent complicated and unsuccessful recovery. But when the forecast showed a Sunday-funday temperature nearing 80 degrees, and the Hiram Gauge on the Cuyahoga showed a nice crest at 750 cfs, it seemed like a good opportunity to test the months of physical therapy, dry-needle therapy, stretching, R.I.C.E.-ing and every other attempt to heal my knee and see if any of my hard work had paid off.

Brian Smart, who is a new-ish member of the club, has been doing a great job of recruiting new club members – even introducing people to whitewater who have had almost no whitewater experience. It was refreshing to only know two of the nine paddlers on the run. I knew Brian and John. Francis, Seth, Bret, Dan, Chris and someone else I'm missing were all new to me. It was a great experience to hop on a run that I had paddled years ago countless times while I was learning to paddle whitewater and see new people starting on that similar path on an old, familiar run.



Chris dodges the pin rock hole

The level was just over 4 feet on the stick gauge in downtown Kent (on the south side of the Stone Arch Bridge and east bank of the river downtown), and that meant all the fun waves downtown were at a great level for play. The excitement started at the put in at River Bend, when we encountered a hapless SUPer casually floating down the river, standing on his board sans PFD with a small dog about the size of a large rat (and looking just as disheveled) perched nervously at the front of his board.

"Do you know where you're going?" I asked him.

"My girlfriend's going to pick me up," he responded.

"Do you know about the small rapids downtown?" I asked him. (I know, they're not really rapids, except to the uninitiated).

"There's rapids downtown? How bad are they?" He seemed mildly intrigued.

"If you don't know about them, they're bad – for you," I said.

I decided to encourage him to get off the river at Standing Rock Cemetery just about 100 yards downstream from the River Bend put-in. Every member of our group proceeded to offer the same advice. He confidently shrugged off our warnings and paddled on down river. "You know we're going to be fishing him out downtown," I told Brian. "You can't fix stupid," was his response.

We all played our way down at the few play spots there are above the Fairchild Bridge and the gorge pinch-point that marks the entrance into downtown Kent. Sure enough, as I approached the Brady's Leap seal launch I saw arms flailing on river left as he tried to scramble on top of the submerged ledge that is only about 2 feet wide and dry enough in summer to serve as fertile ground for native grasses. The man, his dog and his SUP narrowly avoided tangling in the mid-river strainer above the drop that marks the entrance to downtown by his fingertips.

Sensing his madness, I calmly paddled over and grabbed a slim eddy right below his board. After asking if he was OK, he nonchalantly exclaimed he had decided to get out of the river now and would do so right there. His only way out was to scale a 10-foot rock wall. His paddle was nowhere in sight, so I decided he had made a good choice. When he assured me he needed no assistance, I returned to my warm, sunny paddling.

I made my way down to Dave's Wave in the old canal lock washout, where two other paddlers who were not part of our group were already enjoying the surf. And on my way underneath the arch bridge I waved to Cuyahoga Falls Fest organizer Don Howdysshell, who appeared strange to not be in a boat in full gear.

I understand some further excitement ensued up-river of the arch bridge within our group, but I was too busy on the wave and was in a hurry to get off the river to avoid over doing it with my knee. I did make sure to stop and enjoy the Silk Mill wave, and give a quick surf lesson to Seth, who was a quick study.

Finally, I ran into our club Vice President John Banach as I got off the river, as he was putting on with a canoe to enjoy a calm trip from Tannery Park down to Cuyahoga Falls with the family.

It was great to run into so many new members who were doing exactly as they should – testing and progressing their skills on one of our area’s most underrated runs for learning the basics of whitewater paddling in one of the calmest and safest of settings.



Unfortunate SUP paddler

**Friends of the Crooked River Summer
Picnic and Paddle
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Our annual summer picnic is back! We will have a pavilion at Camp Hi on August 14th. We will launch at 1pm and have our picnic when everyone gets back. We'll provide sausages and store bought sides and desserts - please bring your own drinks (adult beverages are allowed) and dinnerware. I'll be sending out a shuttle/boat rental survey next.

Everyone is welcome. Any questions? Email at jackizeven@gmail.com.

Volunteerism-Clubs-Then & Now By John Kobak

Clubs are created for all sorts of reasons. Our club invites those who share a common interest in the outdoors and all kinds of boating, including White Water, Sea Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting, and Racing. Our purpose is simply to provide the framework to enjoy these things together.

Our members enjoy seeing new members learn all aspects of paddling safely and learning new skills. We are not professional instructors and our small yearly dues request helps fund meetings, newsletters and yearbooks. We contribute a lot of money back to national organizations that work for river access, protect the river environment or address safety issues. Organizations like American Whitewater, Friends of the Cheat River, Nature Conservancy or [OTHERS](#).

But first & foremost the club only works if members volunteer their time to help each other. We have big jobs like the [Club Officers & Chairman](#), and necessary jobs like **trip organizers, kayak rolling instructors or safety boaters**. Many of our members also participate in **river cleanups**.

Over the years we have had many big volunteer efforts like the **Yough Slalom** (1975-85) which attracted worldwide paddlers who were impressed by our well-organized event. For 50 years (1969-2018) we organized the Class I-II **Vermilion River Race**. For 25 years our members, working with the **American Red Cross**, set up training clinics where ARC supplied the equipment and we supplied all the instructors. About 10 years ago we conducted several **Rescue Rodeo & Clinics** for members of our club and the TRPC.

For the past 15 years both clubs decided to combine our limited volunteer resources in this way; we would organize paddling trips throughout the year and members from both clubs were free to attend. They would continue to operate 2 yearly training programs, the Slippery Rock Clinic in June and the Yough Turkey Bash in August. Our members would help out as instructors and safety boaters. Both of our clubs offer [Indoor Pool Programs](#) in the winter at various local pools. Last year our club started to pay all pool costs for our paid club members at the Canton pool. We now offer [Summer Roll Sessions](#). And since the demise of our rescue rodeo we help pay for a limited number of members to take professional [Safety Training](#).

However, I keep reading Facebook comments; why don't we offer more training, why don't we have more trips announced in advance, what happened to our trips on Southern Rivers or Colorado trips? And some of these people don't even want to join the club, they just want to attend our events. The answer to all of these is the same. Our more active members have to step up and fill the rolls of some of our old time volunteers. Is the culture that much different now? Is it all ME First and take advantage of everything? I can do it but I never want to give back. I don't think so. I think our club members still want to help but the club has lost some of our direction and the push we used to have from some of these old time members.

We don't need to do things like the old timers did, but we need to do something. We need to try to always give back to the sport. You will get a lot more pleasure in giving and helping, than just being a taker. I see a renewed hope in that some of our newer members took it on themselves to offer outdoor rolling sessions, Lower Cuyahoga training trips, and mid-week Slippery Rock training trips I had no problem getting volunteers to help get our new website updated. So now we just need our club leadership focused on giving back and keeping our 55 year old club going and being more active than ever. This year we have seen the biggest surge in new members in our history. But I expect many will again start to drop out if we don't make an effort to keep them interested, by offering more scheduled events for all types of paddling, not just whitewater trips.

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021
Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Thursday, July 1

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Friday, July 2

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, July 3

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Sunday, July 4

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 27 - Savage river Maryland

Monday, July 5

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

Tuesday, July 6

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Wednesday, July 7

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Thursday, July 8

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Friday, July 9

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Saturday, July 10

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Sunday, July 11

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class I - KH Rating: 7 - Lock 29 basic skills practice. Eddies and ferries.

Tuesday, July 13

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, July 15

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Saturday, July 17

Flatwater - KH Rating: 7 - Safety boating: O*H*I*O Masters Swim Club

Tuesday, July 20

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, July 22

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Saturday, July 24

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Race Release

Tuesday, July 27

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, July 29

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Friday, July 30

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class III - KH Rating: 23 - Ladies Day YOLO Paddle

Saturday, July 31

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class II - KH Rating: 12 - Middle Youghiogheny

Sunday, August 1

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

2021 Club Officers

President: Mike Gillam 440-328-5547**VP: John Banach 330-606-5032****Secretary: Michael Duvall 216-513-5921****Treasurer: Kelly Miller 724-553-6816**

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, 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.com and 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 2021 issue of the newsletter is 7/23/2021. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews, Kelly Miller, Editor, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

July 2021

