

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

SEPTEMBER, 2026



President's Message From Robin Shell

Happy September! I can't believe we are this far into warm weather and there's been so much water and fun to be had. Kids are back to school! The picnic was nearly perfect. Only a little rain at night and early Saturday and perfect water levels. There was lots of food and laughter to be had. AND this wasn't the first potluck where we didn't just have a table full of chips. Thank you, Jacki, for all your organizing.

Since Stoney has been fixed there's been a lot of releases, and I know a lot of our members have been sending that river.

Elections are just around the corner. If you would like to throw your name in for any of these positions, just let me know:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Board Member (1 position available)

The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 22, at the Akron, North Hill Branch, meeting room. 183 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave, Akron, OH 44310. Doors open at 5:30. Meeting will start at 6:00. We should have zoom set up for those that can't be there in person. If you would like to bring a snack to share, that would be lovely. By utilizing the library, we are saving money on meeting room fees.

The holiday part is set for Saturday November 21 (before everyone has family events (or family avoidance) so hopefully we have a great turnout. We are still working on a location, but Jacki found a great one and we'll let you know as soon as plans are finalized.

I hope to see everyone on the river!

Robin Shell, President, 216-482-6100

Veep's Views

By Jacki Zevenbergen

August has been a great month thanks to many friends and volunteers.

It started with the TRPC Turkey Bash. This annual training weekend is organized by TRPC annually on the first weekend in August. Many KHCC members participated as instructors, safety boaters or students. Several new KHCC members joined us as a result of this event.

The KHCC summer picnic, meeting, and trips were a wonderful way for our members to get together. I had a great time on the Ladies Day trip! Thank you to Mark Spang and Brianna Wiser for providing easy lines trips for members who wanted support and to Meesh Crum who organized a Middle Yough trip on Sunday for our newest members. Thank you to the easy lines and Middle Yough safety boaters. Thank you to Joyce Schrickel for the wonderful crock pot full of Sloppy Joe, Lori Morford for the yummy pulled pork and Brennan Stinebuck for the vegan hot dog main dishes. Thanks to Domenic Benz for managing the grill so I could focus on the door prize drawings for members. Thank you to Kara Curley for assisting me with the door prize drawings. And thank you to all who brought food for the potluck. I saw a lot of members on and off the river that weekend and you all contributed to the fun.

I appreciate all of the effort that Christina Chain made to try to make the Valley Falls event happen! Even though Mother Nature had other ideas, she did a great job of letting everyone know how that event works and stepping in to honor an event that had been organized by the late Jeff Prycl in the past. This was never a KHCC event but Christina is a member and I want to let her know how much we appreciate her hard work for our community.

John Black stepped up to organize a North Branch Potomac trip during the August release. I attended that trip and it was really fun.

By the time the newsletter comes out the Rescue Practice on the Slip will be history. I hope we have a good showing!

Please consider organizing a Slip, Cheat Narrows, LOYO, Stony or NB Potomac trip in September or October! These trips give our newer members an opportunity to step up.

The multi club New River Rendezvous is at Ray's Campground in Hico, WV over Labor Day Weekend. Contact Savanna Klein for details.

We could also use organizers for advanced trips in WV during Gauley season. Please contact me if you are willing to organize so I can add you to the schedule.

Jacki Z

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
August 30, 2026
From Michael Duvall**

Checking \$12,478.62

**Keel-hauler Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2026
From Meesh Crum, Secretary**



Keel-Haulers Canoe Club August Meeting Minutes
Saturday, August 8, 2026
Tall Oaks Campground
544 Camp Riamo Rd, Farmington, PA 15437

6:49 PM - Call to Order, President Robin Shell

1. Welcome and overview
 - a. Counted 28 members present
 - b. Invitation to join: \$20 annual membership fee mostly goes to conservation. Events like Slip Fest raise money for other benefits such as insurance at club events, free/reduced cost roll practices, clinics and safety courses.
 - c. Tickets for door prizes are still available and will be called out after the meeting/dinner.
2. Robin Shell motion to accept previous minutes, seconded by Brianna Wiser and passed.
3. Treasurer report by Michael Duvall: \$12,368.65 is current balance.
 - a. This year was our first time donating to Rose Point campground, who owns the property we use to access the Slip. After our small donation, we received a hand-written note of gratitude. We can continue to support this campground by shopping in their store and being respectful of their land by not speeding.
4. Membership report by Rachel Faber and Jacki Zevenbergen: 320 paid members as of 08/03/26, with more having joined recently.
5. Slip Fest Review: Thank you to Brian Smart, Rachel Faber, and an abundance of volunteers for their

hard work and dedication in executing another successful Slip Fest! It raises money for our club to invest in events, roll practices and clinics, and is a great time for our members and community.

6. Harlie Custer motioned for Domenic Bentz to be official club chef, second by Meesh Crum, passed.
7. Reminders: Upcoming events:
 - a. **Tuesdays** (ongoing) roll practices at local lakes; in winter roll will begin with Akron University. Harlie Custer volunteered to assist with these.
 - b. **Wednesdays** on the Water (ongoing) at Lock 29 continues to be an option for newer boaters and experienced boaters to come socialize. Start time is generally 5:30. Reach out to Doug Waltman to help or for details.
 - c. **August 15, 2026 - Over the Falls Race** in Ohiopyle. You are encouraged to register and come observe! They do need volunteers.
 - d. **August 16, 2026 - Valley Falls** tradition will continue and our sister club TRPC is looking for volunteers. Reach out to Christina Chain to offer time and assistance for safety, etc. Please note, this is an at your own risk activity and not an official club trip for any club.
 - e. **October 10, 2026 - Fall Colors** will be in Fayetteville. Seth Anderson and Harlie Custer are organizing. If you are considering a PFD on the Gauley or the New Gorge, reach out to Seth directly. Rivers available will include Upper New (McCreery to Thurmond, class II-III); New River Gorge (class III-IV), Lower Gauley (class IV); or Upper Gauley (class V). Other area rivers may be in play depending on rainfall. If you are interested in serving as a safety boater for any of these trips, please reach out to Seth.
 - f. **October meeting (date TBD)** - Elections will be held at our October meeting, date TBD
 - i. We will be voting on and accepting nominations for the following positions:
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Treasurer
 4. Secretary
 5. 1 Board of Trustee position
 - ii. We also have many volunteer positions available and open. Please reach out to Robin if you would like to fill a position.
 - g. **November 21, 2026** -Holiday party with a location TBD. If you have an option in mind at or under \$150, please reach out to Jacki Zevenbergen or Robin Shell.
8. Other announcements and business:
 - a. Planned trips for fall - We have many on the calendar (thank you!) but are always looking for more! If you are interested in planning a trip to be shared in our newsletter, please reach out to Jacki Zevenbergen. Remember that if you are planning a trip, you do not need to LEAD others down the river, but it is a commitment to coordinate and communicate when, where, figure out safety, timing and shuttle.
 - b. Business: Elections and open volunteer positions. Please consider planning a trip!
 - c. Kara had her first swim in the Connie and was joyfully celebrated! Way to go, Kara!

7:03 PM - Meeting adjourned, merriment ensued.

**2027 Membership Dues are Due October 1st
From Rachel Faber**

If you signed up online, your membership should automatically renew on the day you signed up. Login on our website to manage your membership.

Those that paid 2-year memberships for 2025+2026 are due to renew this year. Please sign up online, or mail cash or check to our secretary. Email reminders will be going out in September to those who were on the 2-year renewal schedule.

Questions? Email: membershipkeelhauler@gmail.com

**Newly Discovered Undercut Rock
on the Lower Yough
By Dave Roush**

I organized the July LY trip. Due to low Keel Hauler attendance and a Three Rivers contingent needing an organizer, we combined the two trips. Please forgive my vagueness on the names of the Three River folks on the trip, I could blame it on old age, but truth be told I have never been great with names.

You may recall in July at Dimple Rapid there was a large log (strainer) jutting out from the river left, extending far into the river. We advised everyone running the rapid that, in case of a swim, go river right until you could actually see Swimmers Rapid.

Allison flipped in the waves below Dimple, eventually swimming. As we all know, the first boater went to tow Allison. Kevin (maybe) went for Allison's boat. He wore a rescue life vest with a quick-release strap. Kevin towed Allison's boat river right. About 100 yards upstream from Swimmer's Rapid, the boat got pinned perpendicularly on a large rock. With the boat pinned, the current pulled Kevin, boat and all, completely under the undercut rock. He could have died there. Fortunately, he had the presence of mind to pull the quick release. The boat remained pinned; however, Kevin flushed out.

Later, Mike Duval worked the boat off the rock. The boat was later recovered by Kevin and delivered to Allison.

A swim and a recovered pinned boat, no big deal, right? Everyone was informed of the strainer on river left, prior to running the rapid. In case of a swim, the priority is to rescue the swimmer first. Equipment is retrieved by others. Kevin went for the boat and towed it away from the strainer. However, if Kevin did not have a quick-release tow line and the presence of mind to pull it, we could have had a fatality. This just reinforced how important it is not to be tethered to anything, ever. You never know.

Now most of you are probably wondering exactly where this newly discovered undercut rock is. I will try to describe the location. After running Dimple Rapid, most catch the eddy behind Vulture Rock. Then we start in the middle of the river, heading river left through the rapids Allison flipped in. Following those rapids, if you paddle all the way river right there is a hole several hundred yards down on river right. About halfway between that river right hole and Swimmers, there are a couple of very large rocks on the river right side. The largest rock is the undercut rock. In fact, many of us set up on the river right side to surf Swimmers.

Why didn't we know there is an undercut over there? There is no significant pillow on the upstream side of the undercut and no boil on the downstream side. These are the clear markers for an undercut rock. I suspect the rock rests on the river's right shore and just juts out into the river, so there are none of the usual signs.

We were very lucky. Everyone acted prudently (for kayakers taking the chances we do for an adrenaline rush). Even so, Mother Nature can surprise!

An addition to this article from Michael Duvall:

I did not see what happened to Kevin, but I saw the boat stuck in the right-side eddy. It was a half slice and splatting the rock. I bumped the boat and it started circling in the eddy not being sucked down. I nudged it into the current and it was recovered downstream. Word to the wise, swimming or recovering a boat, stay away from the right shore.

**From Friends of the Crooked River
Post is from August 22, 2026**

A remarkable tribute to the longtime work of Elaine and Harold Marsh, founders of Friends of the Crooked River, has just been released by Ideastream Public Media's Applause program.

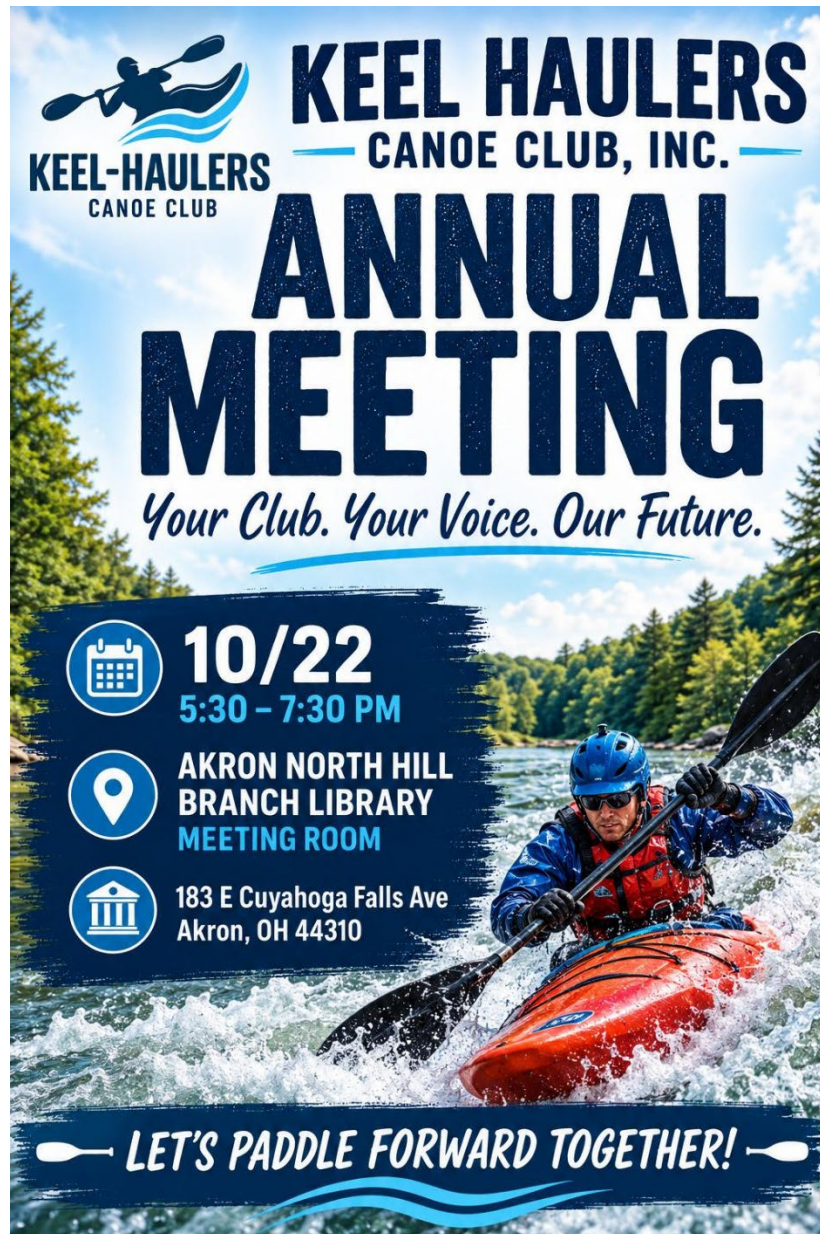
Please give the video of Elaine and Harold (and Friends) a look:

<https://video.ideastream.org/.../friends-of-the-crooked.../>. You can find the print piece that accompanies the video, with more info and pictures, on the Ideastream website at the link in the comments.

We're grateful to Ideastream journalist Jean-Marie Papoi for her interest in Elaine, Harold, and the Cuyahoga, and for producing this portrait of our real-life heroes, and friends, Elaine and Harold.

Another writeup to read: [Friends of the Crooked River | Ideastream Public Media](#)

Upcoming Keel-hauler Meeting
October 22, 2026

The poster features a background image of a kayaker in a red kayak navigating white water rapids. The kayaker is wearing a blue helmet and a blue and red life vest. The background shows a lush green forest under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top left is the club's logo, which includes a silhouette of a person in a canoe. The main title 'ANNUAL MEETING' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it is the tagline 'Your Club. Your Voice. Our Future.' in a script font. The date and time '10/22 5:30 - 7:30 PM' are in large, bold, white letters. The location 'AKRON NORTH HILL BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING ROOM' is in bold, white letters. The address '183 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave Akron, OH 44310' is in white letters. At the bottom is the slogan 'LET'S PADDLE FORWARD TOGETHER!' in bold, white letters, flanked by two white paddles.

KEEL-HAULERS
CANOE CLUB

KEEL HAULERS
— CANOE CLUB, INC. —

ANNUAL MEETING

Your Club. Your Voice. Our Future.

 **10/22**
5:30 – 7:30 PM

 **AKRON NORTH HILL
BRANCH LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM**

 **183 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave
Akron, OH 44310**

LET'S PADDLE FORWARD TOGETHER!

Come and vote for your future of the club. Bring a refreshment to share.
Vote for: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 1 Board Trustee Position.
MANY other positions available.

Robin Shell, President, 216-482-6100

Upcoming River Cleanups From Burning River Adventures

Monday, September 21st, River Clean Up Registration-- Water Works to River Front Park, 12Noon-3pm,
[River Clean Up Registration-- Water Works to River Front Park | Paddle The River](#)

Upcoming Roll Sessions

UPDATED
8/18/26



POOL SESSIONS
AKRON UNIVERSITY
Ocasek Natatorium
382 Carroll Street, Akron

Tuesdays, 8-10pm

September 22, 29
October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17
December 1

Equipment and Logistics:

- *Boats, PFDs (life jackets) and paddles are provided as needed.
- *Personal kayaks are permitted so long as they are clean and free of debris. Boats may be transported through the side entrance of the ONAT pool (**door #14**). Do not prop open doors.
- *Participants may arrive by 7:45 but may not be on the water before 8pm.
- *All participants must be out of the ONAT facility by 10pm. This means planning ahead to exit the water as early as necessary to ensure you are out of the building on time, including kayak transport and locker room use.

Need help?

The club will be more than happy to work with any paddler who requests help.

The Keel Haulers club has a roll instructor that will work with students on learning the kayak roll if you are interested. With this service you must email us at clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com and we will work to get him there to work with you. If you take advantage of this service, we request that you are or become a Keel Hauler club member.

Registration:

Punch Passes are required:
<https://www.uakron.edu/rec/adventure/open-kayaking>



Upon arrival every participant must sign in with our staff and receive a wrist band to wear for the duration of the session. Staff are available in the leisure pool area and ONAT pool deck for sign-in



Keel-hauler Trip Schedule as of August 24th, 2026
[2026 trip/release/event schedule as of 08/24/2026 - Google Sheets](#)

Please review this proposed schedule and reach out to me or Cliff to volunteer to organize at least 1 trip during 2026. We could especially use organizers for pre-planned, weekend Slip, LOYO and Stony trips. In addition to myself and Cliff, there are plenty of members who will mentor you through the trip organizer process if you are new to organizing. Please pay it forward to the club for the support you received as a new boater or the subsidized training you received from the club.

Jacki vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com or **Cliff** cwire64@sbcglobal.net

Purple = release, Red = event, Black = Trip

Contact Info - use FB messenger unless noted otherwise. Contact Jacki at vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com if organizer does not respond to messenger.

September		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
September	all weekends	Slip	13-21	**
September	all weekends	LOYO	23	**
September		Upper Yough (all Fri and Monday plus first 2 Saturdays)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
September	5,6	Stony Release	21	**
September	5-7	New River Rendezvous		Savanna Klein
September	11-14	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	11-14	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
September	12,13	Middle Yough	12	**
September	17-21	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	17-21	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
September	17-20	Gauley Fest		
September	18-20	Upper New		**
September	18-20	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
September	19,20	Stony Release	21	**
September	19,20	NB Potomac	18	**
September	21	Cleanup Waterworks to River Front	Cuy. Falls	Moneen McBride Burn Riv Adv
September	26	Savage	26	Expert level - needs organizer

September	26,27	Upper New		
September	26,27	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
September	25-28	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	25-28	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October		Upper Yough (first 2 Fri and Monday plus first saturday)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October	3,4,17,18	Stony Release	21	
October		Slip	13-21	
October	22	Annual Election		
October	10,11	Fall Colors Trip - WV (Gauley, NRG, Upper New)		Harlie and Seth
October	10,11	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level
October	10,11	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level
October	12	Holiday Paddle		
October		LOYO	23	
October		Middle Yough	12	
October	17,18?	Upper New		
October	18	New River Gorge - Bridge Day	26	No Club Trip
October	17,18	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	17,18	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October		Slip	13-21	
November	7,8	Tohican Release		Doug Waltman with Lehigh Club
November		LOYO	23	
November		Slip	13-21	
November	21	Holiday Party		
	Future ideas			
April	3-6	Spring Break TN, NC, WV	22-32	
April		Tallulah - Cheoah GA, NC	30-34	Expert level - needs organizer
April, May		Cheat and Potomac South Branch Watersheds - Casselman, Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy	18	
April	25?	Cheat Canyon Paddle (Sat) and Race Clinic (Sun) WV	26	Expert level

September Trips and Events

Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

2 SEP, WED

All day, Wednesdays on the Water

5 SEP, SAT

All day, New River Rendezvous (Day 1/3), Ray's Campground, Hico, WV

All day, Stony Release (Day 1/2)

6 SEP, SUN

All day, New River Rendezvous (Day 2/3), Ray's Campground, Hico, WV

All day, Stony Release (Day 2/2)

All day, Air Show from the water, Merwin's Wharf, 1785 Merwin Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113, USA

7 SEP, MON

All day, New River Rendezvous (Day 3/3), Ray's Campground, Hico, WV

9, SEP, WED

All day, Wednesdays on the Water

11 SEP, FRI THROUGH 14 SEP, MON

All day, Gauley Release (4 days)

16 SEP, WED

All day, Wednesdays on the Water

17 SEP, THU

All day, Gauley Fest (Day 1/4)

18, SEP, FRI

All day, Gauley Fest (Day 2/4)

All day, Gauley Release (Day 1/4)

19 SEP, SAT

All day, Gauley Fest (Day 3/4)

All day, Gauley Release (Day 2/4)

All day, NB Potomac AVF release (Day 1/2), Barnum Whitewater Area, Barnum Rail Trail, Keyser, WV 26726, USA

All day, Stony Release (Day 1/2)

20 SEP, SUN

All day, Gauley Fest (Day 4/4)

All day, Gauley Release (Day 3/4)

All day, NB Potomac AVF release (Day 2/2), Barnum Whitewater Area, Barnum Rail Trail, Keyser, WV 26726, USA

All day, Stony Release (Day 2/2)

21 SEP, MON

All day, Gauley Release (Day 4/4)

All day, River Clean Up -- Water Works to River Front Park

22 SEP, TUE

8 – 10pm, University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

23, SEP, WED

All day, Wednesdays on the Water

25 SEP, FRI

All day, Gauley Release (Day 1/4)

26, SEP, SAT

All day, Gauley Release (Day 2/4)

All day, Savage Release

27, SEP, SUN AND 28, SEP, MON

All day, Gauley Release (Day 3 &4)

29 SEP, TUE

8 – 10pm, University of Akron Pool Sessions, Ocasek Natatorium

30, SEP, WED

All day, Wednesdays on the Water

2025-2026 Club Officers

President: Robin Shell

Clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com

VP: Jacki Zevenbergen

VPkeelhaulers@gmail.com

Secretary: Meesh Crum

Treasurer: Michael Duvall

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

Membership: \$20 per year. Membership Chairman: Rachel Faber, membershipkeelhauler@gmail.com

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, mail to the Treasurer: Keel-hauler Canoe Club, 2215 Atkins Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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 damage resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.com

Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or sending a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **October 2026 issue of the newsletter is **9/23/2026**. Please send articles and/or pictures to:**

Kelly Miller at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news

September 2026

Kelly Miller, Editor

