

Prairie State Canoeists

c/o Donna Goldman
1118 Monroe St
Evanston, IL 60202

PSC Paddler

Newsletter of the
Prairie State Canoeists

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chair@prairiestatecanoeists.org

312-203-8950

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Bill Kessler

co-chair@prairiestatecanoeists.org

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Tom Lindblade (2003-2004)

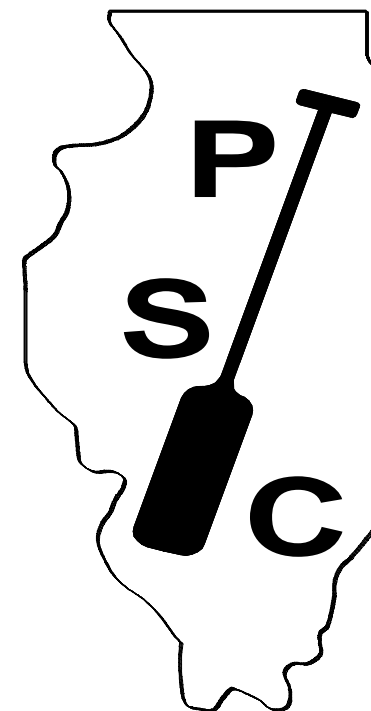
815-963-5945

John Shaw (2003-2004)

630-961-3479

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630-836-0086



Volume 36 #6

October-November 2004

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From The Chair:

Come join us at **White Fence Farms in Lemont** for our **Fall Dinner on Saturday, November 13**. (Please note that, due to many requests, the day has been changed to Saturday.) Last spring's dinner at White Fence Farms was our best-attended feast in years. The food is plentiful and delicious! I hope you can come.

Our presentation promises to be entertaining. Club member **Harold Hensold** will show a video of his recent trip with board member **Allen Close** on the **Rideau Canal** and describe the rich history of this lovely place. Harold claims it is as beautiful as the boundary waters, but with restaurants and no portages. (I forgot to ask him about the bugs...) The locks, scenery, accommodations and people are highlights of this historic route. The entire canal from **Kingston to Ottawa** can be paddled in six to ten days. The Rideau Canal is now one of Allen's favorite trips and he feels that many club members would enjoy paddling this forgotten gem (a yearly event). According to Allen, Harold's knowledge of the area and its history brought a whole new dimension to the trip.

Again, the date of the **Fall Dinner** is now **Saturday, November 13**. Please send in your reservation in early. The form is on page 14.

As of this writing, we are still looking for board members. If you are interested, please talk to **Bill Kessler** or me at your earliest convenience.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there!

PSC T-shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available for purchase. You may make arrangements for UPS delivery or in person at some trips by contacting: **Christina Taylor: 312-203-8950 or peace4368@aol.com**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2005

Vol 37#	Deadline	Trip Announcements
1	November 1	Dec 04-Jan 05
2	January 1	February-March
3	March 1	April-May
4	May 1	June-July
5	July 1	August-September
6	September 1	October-November

Contributions should be e-mailed to: newsletter@prairiestatecanoeists.org
OR mailed to: PSC Paddler, 1319 Ivy Lane, Apt 103; Naperville, IL 60563

PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

DUES: \$15.00 (Dues paid after Sept 1, are applied to next year.)
 NEW MEMBER RENEWAL NEW ADDRESS/PHONE

Please make checks payable to: **PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS**
 Complete & SIGN then mail to: **c/o Donna Goldman**
1118 Monroe St
Evanston, IL 60202

READ AND SIGN BELOW:

I AGREE THAT I AM TAKING PART IN THE **PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS** ACTIVITIES AT MY OWN RISK. I WILL NOT HOLD **PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS**, ITS OFFICERS, TRIP LEADERS, AND OR MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES (INCLUDING DEATH) OR PROPERTY LOSS I MAY INCUR WHILE TAKING PART IN CLUB ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT PADDLING IS AN ASSUMED RISK SPORT, THAT **PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS** IS A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION WITHOUT PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MYSELF/FAMILY. BY SIGNING MY NAME HERE, I INDICATE THAT I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND THAT NEITHER I NOR ANY MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WILL SUE THE CLUB OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

ALL ADULTS MUST SIGN

 SIGNED DATE

 PRINT NAME

 SIGNED DATE

 PRINT NAME

 STREET ADDRESS

 CITY STATE ZIP CODE

 PHONE NUMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS

 CHILDREN-UNDER 21 (LIST NAMES AND AGES PLEASE)

PLEASE PRINT MY NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE IN DIRECTORY YES NO

PLEASE PRINT MY E-MAIL ADDRESS IN DIRECTORY YES NO

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not make a selection for printing, the club policy is to use the default selection of "NO" and your information will not be printed

Check one: I PREFER TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY **POSTAL MAIL ONLY**
 I PREFER TO DOWNLOAD THE NEWSLETTER FROM **<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>**
 (PLEASE NOTIFY ME AT THE E-MAIL ADDRESS LISTED ON THIS FORM WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE)

Prairie State Canoeists

2004 Fall Dinner

Saturday, November 13, 2004, 5:30 P.M.

White Fence Farms

Special Guest: Harold Hensold

“Like the boundary waters but without portaging and with restaurants: come paddle the Rideau Canal.”

Meals include White Fence Farm Chicken (“The World’s Best Chicken”), Baked Potato, Kidney Bean Salad, Pickled Beets, Cottage Cheese, Cole Slaw, and Corn Fritters, Vanilla Ice Cream and a Beverage such as Coffee, Tea, or Milk

- 5:30 PM Cash Bar
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Announcements and Election
- 7:30 PM Harold Hensold

For special meal needs:
contact Christina Collins, 312-203-8950 or chair@prariestatecanoeists.org

Directions: 11700 Joliet Road, Lemont, IL 60439
From Chicago: Take I-55 south to Joliet Road (Exit 269). Proceed 2 miles south.
Phone: 630-739-1720

Prairie State Canoeists
2004 Fall Dinner Reservation Form
Deadline: November 5

Name: _____ Phone # _____

No. of Adults, \$18.00 each	\$	
No. of Kids 12 and under, \$9.00 each	\$	
Total \$ for Dinner	\$	

Make check to: **Prairie State Canoeists**
mail to: Prairie State Canoeists, c/o Donna Goldman,
1118 Monroe Street, Evanston, Illinois 60202

Announcements

June 14-25

Rideau Canal, Ontario

This trip report will a brief overview on this historical route to let the membership know of it and to also let you know that Harold Hensold will be giving a presentation on it at the fall dinner. The route, a series of lakes and rivers connected by several locks, was built by the British as an alternative route to the St Lawrence Seaway after the War of 1812. It runs from Kingston Lake, Ontraio in the south to Ottawa River 130 miles to the north. This was Harold's fifth canoe trip on this route. Our trip was done in two segments, Kingston to Perth (with a two-day layover) and Perth to Ottawa. We had seven paddlers on the first portion and five on the second. Scenery ranged from city to villages, country and some wilderness. Motorboat traffic was very light due to the trip being taken early in the season. Beautiful old buildings, intersting and friendly people, original locks ans swing bridges still operated by hand, wildlife and the history and engineering marvel that connect it all are some of the highlights. Oh yes, and welcome ice cream stops along the way and great pubs and restaurants in town. Anyone interested?

Harold is a widely traveled paddler and a great guy. (Mary and I were on his Yukon River trip two years ago; his fifth trip on that river). I hope you will be able to make it to what should be a fun and interesting evening. **Allen Close**

Paddlers Marketplace

Due to limited space, items will only be listed here for one issue unless you contact the editor and request that your ad continue. A new list is compiled for each issue.

For Sale: Bell Northwind tandem canoe, Royalex light lay-up with wood gunwales, burgundy color. Excellent Condition \$850 Mike 847-336-0126

Wanted: Bell Wildfire solo canoe in Kevlar with wood gunwales. Kim Parsons 262-567-3995, kimpsons1@yahoo.com.

Welcome New Members

Auliff, Ben & Jodie

52 W Marilyn Terrace, Addison, IL 60101
630-543-8901
auliff@juno.com

Benyon, Andrew

Streamwood, IL 60107

Bias, Paul & Sharon Lau

Park Ridge, IL 60068

Boura, Chris & Terri Vurpillat

780 W. Army Trail Rd #178, Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-699-8268
craig.boura@dupageco.org

Courtaway, Kyle

1028 Randolph St, Apt 3S, Oak Park, IL 60302
708-358-0765
kcourtaway@msn.com

Dooley, Mike & Suzanne

1618 S. Valley Hill Rd, Woodstock, IL 60098
815-206-0853

Glines-Kotecki, Patricia & Shawn

6129 North Lincolnway, North Aurora, IL 60542
630-801-9787
plym63@sbcglobal.net

Greenwood, Doug & Jan

813 Old Orchard Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-852-9621
jsmiar@hotmail.com

Guenther, Erich

2017 Bridgeport Rd, NE #322, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-447-7891
wolfs_head@comcast.net

Jurasek, Steven & Jeanne

262 Linden Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126
630-782-6244
sjurasek@hotmail.com

Karrels, Bruce & Linda

1314 Park Place, Sandwich, IL 60548
815-498-1377
tasque@comcast.net

Kirkman, Donn

Noblesville, IN 46061

Krisik, Michael

1025 Apple St., Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
847-456-8957

Mayer, Bob

24 W Erie St, #4A, Chicago, IL 60610

bmayer4ibi@mindspring.com

Meth, Leah & Doug Spitzer

5051 West Conrad St, Skokie, IL 60077
847-677-5053
eggnog20@aol.com, f1overdrive@aol.com

Miras, Joe

510 Teal Ave, Elgin, IL 60123
847-468-9632
joeonthego@prodigy.net

Nagy, Don

1918 Coach Dr, Naperville, IL. 60565
847-204-0649
donaldcnagy@yahoo.com

Pautler, Dominic

335 E. Rimini Ct, APT 1A, Palatine, IL 60067
847-934-0988
dpautler10@hotmail.com

Peterson, Carol

233 Gazebo Lane, Lombard, IL 60148
630-620-5083

Pickering, Jennifer

1824 S. Canalport, Chicago, IL 60616
773-680-9496
taxistac@xnet.com

Trip Announcements (con't)

Saturday afternoon). We paddled our way downstream and stopped at a group campsite for lunch, stopped at Whispering Pines landing for a break (where we watched a group of kids playing in the river—youth and the outdoors!) then proceeded downstream to the Howell Landing campground. Once we got to Howell Landing, we found that two groups had already set up camp. While we were setting up camp, another group arrived. They decided to go across the river to the West Howell landing and camp; we all had enough room. We enjoyed our group dinner and a nice campfire. The rain arrived around 1:30 a.m. and continued through the morning after our launch time. The rain was intermittent and light through the morning, finally letting off by lunchtime. We had gotten an early start to the day and got to our expected destination early -the best group campsite on this stretch of the river. We felt a bit awkward waiting in our boats while a group loaded their canoes from the site so we could then climb the stairs to this awesome campsite. The group was a three generation family from the twin cities; they

looked a bit damp from the overnight rains and ready to head out. We set up camp and enjoyed the afternoon in the mild temps at the top of the hill. This campsite had plenty of tent spots that meandered into the woods. It rained again overnight; a few of us found that our tents got wet—was it the place or the way we set them? I know I was in a low spot and the overlapping tarp seemed to have run the water into one end of my tent leaving an inch of water in one end. The wind in the morning had us wondering...how difficult would it be to get out? The wind died down and everyone was in a hurry to head out. The headwind wasn't too intimidating and the high water kept us moving. The normal Class I rapids through this stretch were less noticeable at this water level even with the high winds and loaded boats. We landed at Riverside Landing around 11:30 and dispersed to different directions for lunch and on to our destinations. Thanks to Terry and Jo Heckenbach for carshift and John & Marilyn Ziegler for driver and gear return. Here'e to another great annual trip on a great river!
Sherri Johnson

For Future Planning

Mar-Apr 2005

Quietwater Rivers of Cumberland Plateau, TN

Carole Snowdon
Karen Wedde

414-962-0879
920-235-7159

csnowdon@juno.com
KdWedde@hotmail.com

Trip Announcements (con't)

a leisurely start in the morning after watching the mist rise from the water with the rising sun. It was a beautiful morning and we were off the river before we knew it—even though we would have preferred to spend a few more days, weeks, months...forever on the river..... Thanks to Doug Spritzer for carshift and Mario Castro for driver return. **Sherri Johnson**

September 4-6 Wisconsin River, WI

Without question the beautiful Wisconsin River still commands its timeless posture as 'The Best.' Low water made for plentiful sandbars and the weather was very close to perfect. Predominantly clear skies with highs in the low 80's and lows in the mid 60's left us all wanting for more. The usual headwind into Boscobel prevailed, but though we were definitely aware that we were paddling into a headwind, it was not so strong as to be wearisome, just challenging, especially for beginners. This trip found us in a fairly large and diversified group of 26 paddlers. Ages ranged from kindergarten to retiree and skill levels followed suit proportionately. The sightings of eagles has become very pleasantly commonplace along this stretch of the river and ice cream from Nobles store at Port Andrew was a heavenly break (for us that is a group of our size storming the store all at once was probably not viewed with as big a 'smiley-face' by the unsuspecting counter attendant as it was by us. And once again, healthy young boys & girls with shovels, in timeless tradition, were last seen searching for the ever-elusive legend of China (*I wonder whoever started that rumor?*). Camaraderie and singing at the campfires made for couple of very

pleasant evenings (although I have to say that Ed Nelson and Marcia Lindt were very sorely missed at the campfire stories). Sunday night fulfilled our experience by delivering us one of the legendary Wisconsin River storms (high winds and heavy rains with only one flash of lightening was just enough to make the trip complete). The leaders would like to extend a very special thanks to our car shifters, Jeff Gillette and Eddie Benoit. They were both non-member guests and unfamiliar with the car-shift procedure, which left them a little apprehensive as to what they were getting into. But since their vehicles were not carrying canoes, we were able to eliminate the return shift at the end of the line and that is always highly appreciated, especially after battling some very challenging headwinds to get to Woodman. I think we were all worn out and ready for a relaxing ride home. **Louis, Ruth & Tyler Igyarto**

September 4-6 Namekagon River, WI

This trip is always a great adventure! Fourteen adventurous souls traveled north to the St Croix National Scenic Riverway for three days on the river. We enjoyed the great weather and scenery the entire weekend. On Friday night some of us camped at Howell Landing campground and others arrived in the wee hours of Saturday morning to Earl Park campground. On Saturday morning we met at a local restaurant for breakfast before proceeding to the put-in. There were numerous other groups on the river for the weekend including a group from the Chicago area Sierra Club (who left some equipment at the put-in which was returned to them when we shared the campground on

Welcome New Members

Raymond, Dan

119 Brierhill Dr, Round Lake, IL. 60073
847-546-7717
raydog90@aol.com

Tiffin, Barbara & Michael

3635 Kemman Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513
708-485-8699

Trelford, Peggy

705 Gregor Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090
847-520-4796
trelford1@msn.com

Tybor, Joseph

6600 Dawn Ave, Countryside, IL 60525
708-352-3002
jrtybor@hotmail.com

Yen, Caurent & Melissa

2852 W. Cyndale St, Chicago, IL 60647
312-446-6915
dabeindan@yahoo.com

Additions/Changes to the Directory Listings

Sandon & Michelle Bate

1312 Old Bay Road, Johnsburg, IL 60051
815-578-1492
sdbate@comcast.net

Sherri Johnson

630-527-6691

Kim Parsons

37342 Delafield Rd, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-567-3995
kimparsons1@yahoo.com

Trip Announcements

Oct 1-12, Fri-Tue Lower Michigan Rivers Experienced Paddlers/Campers only please.

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com

Black, Jordon, Manistee, Pere Marquette, Pigeon, Pine and Sturgeon Rivers Camping and canoeing in Michigan is beautiful in the fall. These rivers have clean spring fed challenging but forgiving rapids. Join us for part or all of these adventures. Call or email September 24-29 for info about the first part of the adventure.

The Pine River part of the trip is Saturday October 9- Monday, Columbus Day. Take 94 east to 196 to 131 to Highway 10 at Reeds

City and go west to Baldwin where you take 37 north, about 20 miles, to the Paddlesports campground, on the west side just before the Pine River bridge. Please do not bring firewood. It will be available at the campground.

Oct 3, Sun **Rock River, IL**

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

richrothrock@yahoo.com

The Rock River, from Oregon, Illinois to Grand Detour (approx 10 miles). Absolutely great Fall canoeing. Put-in is in Oregon at the Park East Access Area, south of the spillway dam,

Trip Announcements (con't)

one block north of Rte. 64 on the east side of the river. Car shift at 9:30 a.m. Expect rock formations, very few power boats, maybe the resident bald eagles will make an appearance.

Oct 9-10, Sat-Sun

Fawn/Pigeon Rivers, IN

Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296

**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554
Pclifford38@hotmail.com**

We will be camping at Riverside Campground east of Shipshewana on IN Rt 120. Depending on the water levels, it will be decided which rivers will be run each day. Carshift from the campground on Sat will be at 915AM and at 9AM on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us for an Amish dinner in Shipshewana Sat. evening. Directions: Take I-80, Indiana toll road, to IN 13. Go South on IN 13 to IN 120. Go East on IN 120 9.25 miles to county road 450 West. Go north to campground on the north side of river. Bring dump clothes, PFD's, and lunch. Please contact one of the leaders.

**Oct 7-10, Thu-Sun Wolf River-Whitewater
(Biking & Paddling)**

Canceled

Oct 17, Sun I & M Canal, IL

Beginner

**Larry Forgala 708-425-0733
larryfor@msn.com**

A close and easy trip for those who would like a leisurely paddle while enjoying the fall colors. DIRECTIONS: Take I-55 South to Rt. 6 (Channahon Exit). Turn right (West) on Rt. 6 and continue approx. 3 miles to the McKinnley Park sign on your left. Turn left

and continue past the houses to the park. Continue to the lower park area. No car-shift, put-in at 9:30 a. m.

Oct 17, Sun Sugar River, WI,

Clean-Up

**Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjr@aol.com**

**Mark & Merri Morrall 815-765-3402
merri.morrall@gte.net**

Call or email for info.

**Oct 17, Sun Raccoon Creek, IN
(Covered Bridge Festival)**

Advanced Beginner

**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554
Pclifford38@hotmail.com**

We will be canoeing the Raccoon Creek for the Annual Covered Bridge Fest. This is the largest Fest in IN. The Indiana DNR releases water from the dam in connection with the fest which is the reason for the advanced beginner rating. We will meet at the gate at Shades State Park for the car shift at 9:15 AM. Shades State park is located on IN Route 234 East of Rt. 41. Bring dump bag and PFD"s. Lunches are optional since the lunch stop is where the big part of the fest is located. Allow extra time getting to the part because of the large amount of cars.

Oct 24, Sun Illinois River, IL

**Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com**

This trip is still uncertain due to a potential personal schedule conflict. Please call the trip leader the week before 10/24/04 to see if this trip is on and to get the respective details.

Trip Announcements (con't)

got on the water in good time and enjoyed the good water level—no scraping and bumping! We paddled and chatted our way along the river, arriving at the State Park picnic area for lunch. We sat back and enjoyed the nice weather while we ate. Then we paddled down a ways to the Rock Creek and pulled up again, wading up into the canyon. The water was nice and cool and many of the people ended up having a seat in one of the deeper 'pools' in the Canyon. No one was in a hurry to leave but had most had left camp set up (which was at the take-out) to let their tents air out. In short order, everyone was on their way home. Thanks to Tammy Johnston for carshift and Janice Wellborn for driver return **Sherri Johnson**

August 8 Chicago River Flatwater Classic

A sunny Sunday was perfect for the Chicago River race. Hundreds paddled canoes and kayaks competitively or at the more leisurely pace of the sightseer. Starting with pre-assigned times from Clark Park on the North Branch, participants passed along the changing industrial banks, through the urban canyons of downtown Chicago, to the finish line at Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown on the South Branch. Organized by Friends of the Chicago River, the event increases awareness of the river's many qualities. And if the water seemed a bit nastier than usual this year, all the more reason to learn more about the river, keep up with the changes and introduce new Friends to all that the Chicago can offer. Participants should contact Ray Ziemer for PSC paddle points. See www.chicagoriver.org for more information on Friends of the Chicago River. **Ray Ziemer**

August 14 Kankakee River, IL

A beautiful, cool summer's day provided great paddling weather for this time of year. Low water levels with some new sand & gravel bars, and some late arrivals made for a somewhat longer paddle. We all gathered at the take-out, went to the restaurant there & had a pleasant lunch. Thanks to Carole Hickman & Jim Rehfelt for carshifting. **Larry Forgala**

August 28-29 Wisconsin River, WI

We met in Muscoda, Wi to camp in Victoria Park after driving up after work on Friday night; arriving after dark to set up camp in the rain wasn't our idea of 'pleasant'. We were waked up by a large boisterous group of participants for an Adventure run that was set to start from there at 5:00 a.m. We managed to get a little more sleep and the rest of our group joined us at the landing (some a little later than others:)). We did the carshift and headed on the river. One paddler was only able to stay for the day so we shifted his car to the Port Andrew landing. We felt really bad when after only 2 hours of paddling we were at the landing. It had been raining off and on but was fairly warm. We took a break at the landing and walked up to the store. Two other paddlers opted to take off there due to the weather which left our group at only six paddlers in 4 boats. We continued on to our sandbar (AKA 'Sands-a-Bar') to set up camp. We had help from some very curious young geese who were fascinated with the straps, hooks, loops, etc. on gear. We had pizza and wine around the campfire. We had

Trip Announcements (con't)

times. Most portages along the river were better defined. Water level on the river was low but doable for most part. Of course the two falls had to be portaged. Lady Evelyn Falls was absolutely beautiful, but so was the whole area. Blue iris and Indian Paint Brush were in bloom and in another couple weeks the blueberries and elderberries would be ripe for eating. Although I will not do the lake connection again (Paul says one 300 meter portage was 150 meter up and 150 meter down) because it was like backpacking with a canoe. I would like to take the train to Sand Lake and do the entire river sometime, anyone interested?
Allen Close

July 24 Horicon Marsh, WI

My scheduld trip to the Horicon Marsh was canceled because of high water. The re-scheduled trip was difficult or worse. The entry ditch was plugged by debris. We chose not to portage and went back to the put-in. We then drove east and started again down the east branch of the Rock River. We didn't see as many birds as expected but the weather was pleasant.
Jerry Kolar

July 31 Fox River, IL

"Once in a Blue Moon #2"; Mother Nature was kind again!!!! A mixed group of canoes & kayaks enjoyed a cool, leisurely paddle dodging some new sandbars, gravel beds, & downfalls. An early full moon added to the atmosphere & a good time was had by all. Thanks to Carole Hickman, Bill Kessler, & Dan Raymond for carshifting. **Larry Forgala**

July 31 Kankakee River, IL

This trip added at the last minute and filled a gap in the schedule. Ten paddlers in a variety of boats (solo, tandem and kayak) paddled this nice stretch of river from the IL-IN State Line to Momence. It was nice and quiet on the river and overcast most of the morning. Just as we were finishing lunch the sun came out and it got warm rapidly. We saw some scattered wildlife and flowers but the entertainment was provided by Tonka, Allen Closes dog, who was playing freely in the water any one would splash. He was also quite active in the boat while we were paddling and were impressed that they didn't end up swimming. We got to the landing around 2:00 p.m. I led several campers to the Kankakee River State Park where they set up camp and met with other members for the night in preparation for the next day's paddle on another stretch of the river. I returned to the take-out the next day hoping to find a paddle accidentally left by a member. It was there, which revives the faith in the goodness of paddlers and people who appreciate good gear. I was very happy to report the retrieval to the owner and returned the paddle to him a couple of weeks later on another trip. Thanks to Tammy Johnston for carshift.
Sherri Johnson

August 1 Kankakee River, IL

Those who did the previous day's trip and stayed at the State Park were a little late arriving from the campground to the put-in and were almost left behind by the rest of the group. Everyone was ready to go! We

Trip Announcements (con't)

Oct 30-31, Sat-Sun Wisconsin Dells, WI

Lou, Ruth & Tyler Igyarto **847-587-7462**
Bob Fenger 847-356-2171

This year's Dells trip will be back on at the beautiful Wisconsin Dells stretch of the Wisconsin River. In the past Mother Nature has handed us cold weather, wind, rain and/or snow every bit as often as we've had 70's and sunshine. So, regardless of the forecast, come prepared for whatever she may hand us. There **will not** be an organized dinner on Saturday night. We will be camping at Mirror Lake State Park and leaving from there both days at 9:00 am. **Directions:** Drive north on I-90/94 to the Wisconsin Dells. Exit South onto US RT12. Proceed south approximately 1 mile to Fern Dell Road. Turn right (west) and proceed to the entrance to Mirror Lake State park. (Signs for Mirror Lake State Park are easy to follow.)

Nov 7, Sun Mystery Trip

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com
Bill Kessler 708-547-5314
Kslr@AOL.COM

'Tis a mystery where all our paddlers will go, November could see sun or clouds in the sky. Where ere the water's up and the river currents flow, The put-in and take-out unknown 'til that dawn is nigh.

Not rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor hail
 Will stay the motion of paddles and boats.
 Call the leader for every last detail, and
 Set your hand to anything that floats.

Wherever we'll be, we'll be. Join us.

Nov 13, Sat Fall Dinner

Christina Collins 312-203-8950
 See page 14 for details and form to send in.

Nov 29-Dec3, Quietwater Rivers of Apalachicola National Forest, Florida Pan-handle

Carole Snowdon 414-962-0879
csnowdon@juno.com
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Apalachicola National Forest, just west of Tallahassee, Florida, is home to the Sopchoppy and Ochlockonee Rivers, known for their remote, wilderness environment. Though technically defined as "quietwater", the Sopchoppy winds a narrow path among cypress trees gnarled into fantastical shapes and cypress knees surfacing in the water, requiring a paddler with good boat control in a boat that turns easily in narrow, winding streams. We will also paddle the canopied "Slave Canal" of the spring-fed Wacissa River, and the second section of the Aucilla River, jockeying among its continuous riffles and paddling (or portaging) its one Class II rapid. The broad flow of the Ochlockonee River is a complete contrast to the Sopchoppy, Wacissa, and Aucilla, yet sharing their remote, wilderness quality. A fifth river will be chosen. We will establish one base camp, and then transfer to a second, shuttling daily to a different river, for maximum variety and flexibility. **Early registration encouraged.**

Trip Reports

May 11-17 Falls Chain—BWCA

My niece, Juliette Kahle, and I were the only ones to go on this trip. She had recently graduated from college and wanted 'spring break' up north. Unlike our trips of six years previous when we did a couple of weeks tandem, this trip was her first time in a solo canoe and she had taken some in-pool and moving water classes in preparation. It was time well spent as wind as the waves on the larger lakes and current around the falls were some of the conditions to deal with during this trip. We spent our arrival evening at 'Way of the Wilderness' canoe outfitters campground which is located at the very end of the Gunflint Trail, north out of Grand Marais, MN. Also accompanying us was my 10 month old pup, Tonka, on his first major canoe 'expedition'. WWCO is owned and operated by Bud Darling who is originally from the Chicago area. The weather was cold and wet for most part with some light snow and sleet our first day. The only totally sunny and warm day was layover day we spent at camp between Kennabas and Canyon, the last two falls in series of about seven falls in our route. Bald eagle, osprey and loons were a common sight along with resident beaver. Fortunately we had no encounters with 'urses americanus' like we did on our tandem trip. The portages were easy to moderately hard and the scenery beautiful. Morel mushrooms were evident along some of the portages from earlier warn weather but no longer looked appetizing due to the subsequent cold spell. A word of caution concerning the falls Chain: we stopped in at the Cache Bay Ranger cabin on our way out and she advised that over the

years there have been several drowning along that route. The great majority by individuals approaching the falls from below thinking it is less dangerous than at the top. High water and swift currents in early spring combined with little or no experience with certain paddle strokes and ferrying while not wearing PFD's and extremely cold water can add up to a fatal situation. Over all, the trip was very good; the saying that 'A bad day of paddling is better than a good day at work' is very true. **Allen Close**

May 15 Fox River, IL

Although recent heavy rains caused concern, it was a pleasant day. We enjoyed a close view of a mostly heron and egret rookery. There was no power boat stress in the scenic backwaters. Carp activity in the shallows was a common sight. There were creature comforts at the put-in and lunch break. We were off the water by 2:00 p.m. **Jerry Kolar**

May 31 Fox River, IL

Would you believe a "all time record!!!!" With the water level at 8 ft. above normal, with a fast current, 4 canoes & 4 kayaks made the trip in 1 HOUR. A pleasant lunch stop at Ayer's Landing was ended by a torrential downpour that ended the day. Many thanks to Bob Tyler for carshifting & providing entertaining stories. **Larry Forgala**

July 3 Fox River, IL

In spite of heavy storm warnings & tornado watches, hearty paddlers took off to the

Trip Announcements (con't)

tune of firecrackers & sky rockets. A mid-trip downpour lent some excitement making the take-out hard to find. A good time was had by all. **Larry Forgala**

July 11 Kishwaukee River, IL

A large group of 26 paddlers showed up to enjoy the great weather and higher water on the "Kish" than we've seen in some time. We had an armada of 21 boats going down the river and the only complaint was the trip was over too soon! As always we'd like to thank the car shifters Art Mayfield, Murray Peshkin and Rodney Trelford and Sherri Johnson for returning the carshifters. Also thanks to Al Donaldson for serving as sweep boat as this was a big group to keep track of and Mark Morrall for spotting boaters going through a tight turn. **John & Barb Shaw**

July 17-18 Mekan River, WI

Quiet, peaceful steam with a lot of turns. We saw various birds & fish while on the river. We also saw sandhill cranes, deer and wild turkey along the road. Austin Fenger went fishing both Friday and Saturday evening and caught over 100 fish. **John Marilyn Ziegler**

July 18-24 Sand River

This trip never got posted because it was filled as soon as a decision was made to do it. Campsites along the route are small allowing an average of 2-3 two-person tents. This trip started on Mijinemungshing Lake which is located at the end of a road of same name, about 5 miles off of HWY 17 that

runs north out of Sault Ste Marie (about 100 miles). The drive there from Chicago us about 10-12 hours. We used a local business to shuttle us in our vehicles having it dropped at the take out a day before our trip ended. The canoe route to the river referred to as the Old Woman Lake route, intersects the Sand River about halfway between its origin from Sand Lake in the north and Lake Superior to the south. There were 10 lakes to cross to get to the river. There were 11 portages to take; one we eliminated as it was a big beaver dam we pulled over and lowered our canoes from. The portages ranged in length from 130-1350 meters. Portages to the river totaled about 3.7 miles and having to triple portage each one (make 5 trips) meant we walked about 20.5 miles on that portion, paddling about 12.5 miles. The river phase consisted of about 15.5 miles on the water. There were 18 portages but we only did about half of them, being able to paddle, push, pull, wade around the others. The portages ranged from 100 to 1100 meters. Those we did amounted to about 2 miles for a total walking distance of 10 miles. We spent four days on the Lake Route and three days on the river. The portages ranged from easy to very difficult and some could have been worse had the weather been rainy instead of nice. Lake Superior Provincial Park nails plastic signs to trees to mark campsites and portages and there was evidence of some maintenance i.e. down trees cleared across the portages, erosion control on some slopes, log and board walk bridges, but some were rotten, exposing potentially dangerous spikes. Some portages along the lake route were overgrown and having a dog along proved beneficial in finding our way some-