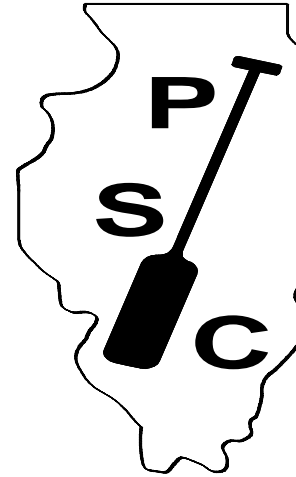


**Prairie State Canoeists**  
 c/o Ken Cole  
 224 Lafayette Dr  
 Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Send Address corrections to: [Treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org](mailto:Treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org)  
 or Ken Cole, 224 Lafayette Dr, Bolingbrook, IL 60440

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# PSC Paddler



Newsletter of the  
**Prairie State Canoeists**

Volume 37 #3  
 April-May 2005

Visit our website at:  
<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

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Co-Chair (2005) **John Ziegler** Elgin 847-742-7316 [co-chair@prairiestatecanoeists.org](mailto:co-chair@prairiestatecanoeists.org)  
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Training Coordinators **Tom Lindblade** Rockford 815-963-5945 [lindbladt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindbladt@sbcglobal.net)  
**Tom Richardson** 630-832-3523

## Board of Directors

**Allen Close** Park Forest (2004-2005) 708-748-2102 [thecloses@yahoo.com](mailto:thecloses@yahoo.com)  
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**Mark Morral** Caledonia (2005-2006) 815-765-3402 [morrall@t6b.com](mailto:morrall@t6b.com)  
**Joan Taylor** Lombard (2005-2006) 630-495-1565 [taylorjrs@aol.com](mailto:taylorjrs@aol.com)

**From the Chair:**

Trip leaders are the backbone, the infantry, the platoon leaders of our organization. Without them, nothing happens. We are happy to report that more than 50 trip leaders have volunteered to lead more 120 trips for the 2005 season. And we salute Joan Taylor for recruiting almost a third of those leaders and expanding the schedule so that there are local, one-day trips for every weekend from April through October.

Have you checked out the PSC website, [www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org), lately? A small, hard-working committee consisting of Michael Collins, Milt Levenberg, Sherri Johnson, Al Donaldson, and Christina Collins overhauled the site. This website will soon be a major resource for the paddling community throughout the Midwest. Exciting new features include up-to-date club announcements, fast posting of new, added, or last-minute trips, a bulletin board for discussions and forums, detailed trip reports and river reviews.

Our training program trips, organized by Tom Lindblade and a dedicated corps of ACA-certified instructors, will serve a record number of paddlers this season. This is a great opportunity to enhance your paddling skills and enjoyment of paddling.

Looking forward, the club's first-ever Summer Picnic is scheduled for August 7: Food, fun, pre-owned gear sale, skill-building and safety training, games, test paddling canoes and kayaks. Tracy Hunt is organizing the picnic, but we will need many volunteers to make this event successful. Please contact Tracy, [tjhunt@netzero.net](mailto:tjhunt@netzero.net), or me, [kslr@aol.com](mailto:kslr@aol.com), if you have ideas, time or resources for this project.

Now, no excuses get out there and paddle! Bill Kessler

**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: Rebecca Sells, [r-sells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r-sells@sbcglobal.net), or Linda Gebhart [lgebhard@aurora.edu](mailto:lgebhard@aurora.edu); 630-466-7093.

Newsletter Deadlines for 2005		
Vol 37#	Deadline	Trip Announcements
1	November 15	Dec 04-Jan 05
2	January 15	February-March
3	March 1	April-May
<b>4</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>June-July</b>
5	July 1	August-September
6	September 1	October-November

Contributions should be e-mailed to: [newsletter@prairiestatecanoeists.org](mailto: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 Ken Cole  
 224 Lafayette Dr  
 Bolingbrook IL 60440

**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)

## Trip Announcements

*Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.*

**Mon, May 30 Milwaukee River, WI**

**Terry & Joette Heckenbach** 262-376-4230  
jtnj@netwurx.net

Contact the leaders for details.

**Sat, Jun 4 DuPage River Sweep  
Clean-Up**

**Ray & Dawn Ziemer**  
630-836-0086

rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

Our clean-up of a section of the West Branch is part of a county-wide river sweep effort sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. Bring your boat, gloves, lunch and your favorite garbage pick-up gizmo. We'll provide garbage bags. Call leaders to confirm put-in location. Car shift 9:30.

## For Future Planning....

*Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change,*

**June 5-11**

**Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness**

**David Johnson** 815-634-2811 canoenwoods@sbcglobal.net

This Trip will start just outside of Ely Mn. We will be entering at Crab Lake. The first portage is about 1 mile long. Therefore you will need to pack light and be in good condition to make this portage with all of your gear in two trips. From Crab Lake we will travel to Cummings Lake which is known for its smallmouth fishing (great time for a fly rod). This trip is planned for the peak of the smallmouth fish which means it is also bug season. You do not need to be a fisherman to join this trip; there are lots of other things to do/explore. Bald Eagles, Loons and Otters sightings are common. Bear and Moose sights are very possible. If we are lucky we may even hear the wolves at night. We can base camp at Cummings Lake or do a loop through a set of small lakes, depending on the group's interests. The trip is limited by BWCA rules to nine people and four canoes. There will be a pre-trip meeting.

## From the co-chair:

I just want to remind the trip leaders to send the sign in sheet to me (John Ziegler) by mail. The trip report is to be sent to the newsletter editor (Sherri Johnson) either by mail or email

Due to changes being made as to how trips are added to the master list, there is a possibility I could miss sending you a reminder of your trip. If you haven't received an email from me, please go to the web site and print out the forms you need.

If your contact information (email & phone number) is incorrect, please contact the co-chair, treasurer and newsletter editor with the correct information. John

## Website for Paddlers: [www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org)

*Try it—you'll like it!*

The club's web site, at [www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org), has become one of the best resources for paddlers in the Midwest. Recent new features include an on-line Trip Schedule that can be added to and modified by the trip leaders. Planning a last-minute pick-up trip? Post it here. The Bulletin Board now invites announcements, news items, and free-ranging discussions on paddling topics. The River Review section, still under construction, will contain an encyclopedic collection of data on the rivers that our members paddle. Get on board, get on-line. Let the web committee know what you think. Post some interesting ideas, respond to others. See you there!

*Join Us Sunday, April 10*

at

***Dockers***

***33 W Grand Ave, Fox Lake, IL***

***847.973.0033***

Following the **Trip Leaders Orientation Trip on Sunday, April 10** on the nearby **Nippersink Creek**, we will convene at **Dockers** in Fox Lake for a ***social get-together***.

We will use a private room on the upper floor of the restaurant with a great view of Fox Lake. Dockers' menu features reasonably priced sandwiches, appetizers, entrees, and desserts. The paddlers will probably get there about 4:00 PM, but dinner should begin about 5:00 PM.

**Directions:** Go into Fox Lake on Rte 12, turn west on Grand Avenue and go two blocks. Large parking lot.

**Contact:** Bill Kessler, [kslr@aol.com](mailto:kslr@aol.com) or 708.547.5314.

## Announcements

### PSC Summer Picnic

**Date:** Sunday, August 7, 2005

**Place:** Silver Springs State Park on the Fox River below Yorkville

This may be the first ever attempt to gather our members together on a warm summer day for some relaxed paddling and comradery. Plans call for good food, good friends, a 'lawn sale' of that canoeing and camping gear the you have hardly ever used, training sessions, test paddling a variety of canoes, skills and safety demonstrations, and canoe games. Tracy Hunt is the lead organizer. If you have ideas and resources to share for this event, please contact Tracy: 630.832.3538 or tjhunt@netzero.net.

### Thanks to ACA Certified Instructors

The Club would like to extend a gesture of appreciation to those individuals who have gone out of their way to achieve and maintain their certifications as ACA Instructors, and who also contribute time and effort to the club. PSC has established a program to reimburse instructors for some of the expenses incurred in keeping their certification current. If you are or have been an ACA certified instructor contact Tom Lindblade, lindbladet@scbglobal.net. for details.

**WANTED:** co-leader & any others interested in doing exploratory trips on some of the rivers in the western portion of the U.P. this spring &/or early summer. Some things needed are two - three days time, camping gear for base &/or river camping, & capable of paddling in moving water. Anyone interested can call or e-mail me for further discussion; ideas/suggestions welcome. Allen Close, 708-748-2102 or [thecloses@yahoo.com](mailto:thecloses@yahoo.com)

May/June: The Rideau, Kingston to Perth, & Perth to Ottawa. Anyone interested in doing all or either half of this classic wilderness waterway connected by nineteenth century locks, please call Allen Close @ 708-748-2102 for details.

## 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:** Two Number 4 Granite Gear Canoe trip packs, one green and one grey. Excellent condition; \$50.00 each or \$75.00 for both. Jack; 847-251-6313.

**FOR SALE:** Mainstream Sneak Kayak. Like new; camouflage color; very stable. Bob Fenger 847-356-2171.

## Trip Announcements

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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. Put-in at 9:30 A. M. No car shift.

### Sat-Sun, May 21-22 Kickapoo River, WI

**John & Mary Puskar 630-393-8821**  
[jmpuskar@ameritech.net](mailto:jmpuskar@ameritech.net)

Contact the leaders for details.

### Sat, May 21 Sugar River, WI

**John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316**  
[canucamp@scbglobal.net](mailto:canucamp@scbglobal.net)

This is another nice river in southern WI. From Janesville take RT 11 west to Brodhead. Turn right (N) on RT 104 and take this to Cnty C. Turn left (W) on County C and follow this to the river. The put in is on the NE corner. Car shift is at 9:30.

### Sun, May 22 Des Plaines Marathon Race

**Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086**  
[rgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rgziemer@worldnet.att.net)

Join hundreds of paddlers in canoes and kayaks of all sizes, for heated competition or just for fun. You must register to participate in this marathon race from Libertyville to DesPlaines. For more information call Ray Ziemer or the DesPlaines River Association 847-604-2445, or email [Kaab610@aol.com](mailto:Kaab610@aol.com)

### Sun, May 22 DuPage River, IL

#### Beginner

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691**  
[canoeseew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoeseew@sbcglobal.net)  
**Rosetta Kessler 815-729-0713**

We will paddle from Hammel Woods in Shorewood to Channahon. From I-55 @ U.S.52 exit go west to the first light (RT59) Turn right (north) on RT59 and go approximately 1/2 mile to Hammel Woods Forrest Preserve entrance on the right. Carshift at 9:30.

### Sun, May 22 Fox River, WI

**Tracy Hunt 630-832-3538**  
[tjhunt@netzero.net](mailto:tjhunt@netzero.net)

Contact the leaders for details.

### Sat-Sun, May 28-30 Wisconsin River, WI River Camping

**Bob Fenger 847-356-2171**  
**Louis Igyarto 847-587-7462**

Contact the leaders for details.

### Sun, May 29 DuPage River, IL

**Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086**  
[rgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rgziemer@worldnet.att.net)

We will paddle the stretch of the river from Naperville to Plainfield. Bring Lunch. Put-in *probably* at Weigand Park. Call leaders for information and directions. Car shift 9:30.

## Trip Announcements

*Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.*

**Sun, May 8**                      **White River, WI**  
**Experienced Beginner**  
**Bill Kessler**                      **708-547-5314**  
    **kslr@aol.com**

Rising from the eastern tip of Lake Geneva in Wisconsin, the White is a small, rural, wandering stream. The put-in is at the point where Sheridan Springs Road crosses the river, about 100 yards east of the rear entrance of the Lake Geneva Resort. The village of Lyons is the halfway point for lunch and those wishing to finish the trip here. Directions: From I-94, take Rte 50 west to Rte 12. Go north about a mile, exit on Rte 120, go south a half mile, turn left, go east about a mile to the river. Bring water, lunch, dump bag, meet at put-in at 9:30 AM. Please let us know if you are planning to paddle.

**Fri-Sun, May 13-15 Kishwaukee River, IL**

**Mark & Merri Morrall 815-765-3402**  
    **morrall@t6b.com**  
**Mark and Pam Skeels 815-522-3596**  
    **mskeels@tbcnet.com**

During the course of the weekend, we will be paddling a much less traveled portion of the Kishwaukee River system, the South Branch. Join us Saturday morning at Russell Forest Preserve just west of Genoa, car shift at 10:00. Sunday we will meet in the parking lot at McQueen Forest Preserve near Kirkland, car shift at 9:00. Contact Mark Morrall about camping at McQueen and a possible exploratory trip on Friday evening.

**Fri-Mon, May 13-16 MI UP Whitewater**  
**Intermediate/Advanced Whitewater**  
**Bill Barclay**                      **708-386-1371**  
    **chocolate.house@sbcglobal.net**

The UP has some great whitewater rivers and beautiful scenery. We haven't done this trip in a few years (and missed water last couple of years) but it is time to go back. Possible rivers include the Montreal, Black, E. Branch Ontonagon, Presque Isle and others. We will paddle all four days but plan to get off the river on the last day early enough for people to drive home. Call the leaders for details regarding camping and meeting places. Wet/dry suits, helmets required.

**Sat-Sun, May 14-15**  
**Instructor Certification Exam**  
**Steve Shapiro**                      **847-253-5875**  
    **steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net**

This program is the certification week end and is a continuation of the Development workshop offered in April. Please contact Maren McKellin at 630-942-3762. if you are interested in the certification exam. Call Steve Shapiro with questions.

**Sun, May 15**                                      **I & M Canal**  
**Larry Forgala**                      **708-425-0733**  
    **larryfor@msn.com**

This is a close & easy trip for those who have not exercised the "paddling muscles" yet. Also, a birdwatchers delight. DIRECTIONS: Take I-55 South to Rt. 6 (Channahon Exit). Turn

## Your input is needed...

The following is an excerpt from the Rules for PSC trips that have been adopted for the 2005 paddling season. The changes regard PFDs and alcoholic beverages. The previous rules and the revised rules are shown below. The complete list of PSC Rules/Guidelines will be published in the 2005 Directory (or are available by request from the PSC Secretary).

The Officers and Board encourage comments from members and will revisit the decision to continue to use these rules or revise them at the end of the 2005 paddling season. Any member that has any comment or suggestion concerning these or any of the rules, please contact any officer or board member. There is also a forum for discussion of club matters at the PSC website, [www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org).

### Old Rules:

- Each canoe will have a Coast Guard approved PFD Type I, II, or III (life vest) for EACH person in your canoe. CHILDREN 13 & UNDER MUST WEAR A PFD AT ALL TIMES. **It is strongly recommended that all members wear PFDs while on the water.**
- No outboard motors or radios are allowed on club trips. Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed while on the water.

### 2005 Rules:

- Federal law requires that a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) be on board for each person in the boat, and that all children 13 years old and younger wear a PFD at all times while on the water. PFDs must be worn at all times on PSC trips except when, at the discretion of the trip leader, the temperature and water levels allow for a relaxation of this rule.
- Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed for the duration of the trip, that is, from arrival at the put-in until after the take-out.

## Where's the DIRECTORY???

Publication of the 2005 PSC Directory has been delayed because a high percentage of long time and/or active members have not yet renewed their memberships...

SO...If you have a note on your address label that says **"This is your last PSC Paddler unless you pay your dues by April 15."** You need to pay your dues immediately or you will be dropped from the PSC membership and not be included in the 2005 Directory.

Any questions about your membership status/dues, contact Ken Cole, 224 Lafayette Dr, Bolingbrook, IL 60440, 630-759-9137, [treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org](mailto:treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org)

### Trip Announcements

*Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.*

**Sat-Sun, Apr 2-3 St Francis River, MO  
Whitewater**

**Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel 708-386-1371  
chocolate.house@sbcglobal.net**

Challenging river with difficulty depending upon water level. Through a canyon, over some nice drops, and chances to play - and it can even be run twice in a day. Wet/dry suits, helmet required. Call leaders for directions, put in times, etc.

**Sat, Apr 2 Mazon River, IL  
Advanced Beginner**

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net  
Rosetta Kessler 815-729-0713**

The Mazon River is truly one of the 'GEMS' found in rare undeveloped areas within a short drive of the Chicago suburban area. This is rated 'Advanced Beginner' because there is a potential of the one Class I rapid and there many riffles that require maneuvering skills above a 'Beginner' status. The trip and the skill level required are dependant on the water level. In the past we have had everything between barely enough water to scrape through, to flood stage — this is to be expected for this unspoiled, undeveloped Illinois stream. We have to contend with the change in access since the bridge replacement in 2000, so we still need everyone to call us since the put-in parking is tight and a walk to the river. We always keep a small group. If water level is too low, we will paddle the DuPage River instead.

**Sun, Apr 3 DuPage River, IL  
Beginner**

**Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086  
rgziemer@worldnet.att.net**

Paddle the twisty upper sections of the West Branch, from West Chicago to Warrenville, mostly through forest preserve land. Take North Ave (IL Rte 64) about a mile east of Rte 59 to the signal at Prince Crossing; turn north to St. Charles Rd., then east to the river. Plan on bringing lunch. Call trip leader for update. Car shift 9:30.

**Sat, Apr 9 Moving Water 1  
Training**

**Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500  
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net**

A wonderful opportunity to tune up your moving water skills on a fun and forgiving stretch of the DuPage River. Review strokes and moving water maneuvers like ferrys, eddy turns and peel outs. You must have taken the IP Training or have previously had some formal paddling instruction. Class size will depend on the number of instructors available. Cost will be \$5.00, \$15 if you are not an ACA member. Please email and let us know you are coming lindbladet@sbcglobal.net. Please be sure to include your address and phone number. (If email is not possible call 630-207-9500). Bring your boat, (canoe or Kayak) PFD paddle, dump clothes in a dry bag, and a lunch. (a limited number of extra boats and equipment can be made available on request). We will meet at Hammel Woods Park. Take I-55 to Rt.52 Jefferson St.) exit. Go west to stoplight (Rt.59). Go north approx. 1/4 mile to Hammel Woods on the right. Be there by 9:30 am.

### Trip Announcements

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**Sat-Sun, May 7-8 Sugar Creek, IN**

**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554  
Pclifford38@hotmail.com  
Jim & Alice Deck 217-442-2032**

Once again we are going to have our annual Wine and Cheese fest. This year we are having it with the Mankinaw Canoe Club. We are going to canoe the Sugar Creek in Indiana As we have in the past we ask those who wish to take part in the Fest Saturday evening to bring a dish to pass around. Paul, Jim and Alice will Provide some adult beverages and soda. We will carshift from Shades State Park at 930AM on Sat and 9AM on Sunday. To get to Shades State Park take I80 to US Rt 41 south. Route 41 south across I74 to Indiana Rt 234(about 120 miles) and turn east to Shades State Park about 8 miles. Ask for a campsite on the far curve in the Racoon Run area. Please call one of the leaders if you are going to attend. Don't forget your dump bag, PFD or lunches.

**Sat, May 7 Fox River, IL  
Advanced Beginner**

**Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187**

Our Trip starts and ends in Chain-O-Lakes State Park. We'll paddle upsteam against a slow current and view scenery typical for a midwestern river. This liesurely trip has a minimum and a maximum boat count.

**Sat, May 7 Moving Water 2  
Training**

**Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500  
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net**

A follow-up to Moving Water I. Continue to build your moving water skills on one of the most beautiful rivers in Illinois. Major whitewater will be portaged. Please email for further information: lindbladet@sbcglobal.net. Please be sure to include your address and phone number. (If email is not possible call 630-207-9500).

**Sun, May 8 Mazon River, IL  
Advanced Beginner**

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net  
Rosetta Kessler 815-729-0713**

The Mazon River is truly one of the 'GEMS' found in rare undeveloped areas within a short drive of the Chicago suburban area. This is rated 'Advanced Beginner' because there is a potential of the one Class I rapid and there many riffles that require maneuvering skills above a 'Beginner' status. The trip and the skill level required are dependant on the water level. In the past we have had everything between barely enough water to scrape through, to flood stage — this is to be expected for this unspoiled, undeveloped Illinois stream. We have to contend with the change in access since the bridge replacement in 2000, so we still need everyone to call us since the put-in parking is tight and a walk to the river. We always keep a small group. If water leve is too low, we will paddle the DuPage River instead.

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**Sat-Sun, Apr 30-May 1**

### Wisconsin Whitewater

**Bill Barclay/Peg Strobel 708-386-1371**  
chocolate.house@sbcglobal.net  
**Doug Spitzer 847-677-5053**  
f1overdrive@aol.com

Oconto, Wolf, Pike, Red. Rivers will depend upon water levels and paddler interests - but we would sure like to get back on the Oconto. Wet/dry suits, helmet required. Call leaders for directions, put in times, etc.

**Sat, Apr 30 Kankakee River, IL**  
**Beginner**

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691**  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net  
**Dave & Mary Stjern 217-546-6474**  
DStjernlaw@aol.com

(Also see trip listing for Sunday, May 1—Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.) We will paddle from the IN/IL state line to Momence. This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. The view at the put-in is rather amazing. When you look upstream you see the Kankakee River Ditch in Indiana that was engineered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. When you look downstream, you see the natural curves and shoreline to the portion in Illinois. The stretch has some cottages on it but is usually quiet. **Directions:** The put-in is at the intersection of State Line Road and the River at the North side (DO NOT try to access this from the south—the bridge is closed!). You may access State Line Road from IL RT 17. Go south of RT 17 approximately 3 miles to the closed bridge at

the river. There is a large gravel parking lot on the left. Carshift at 10:00 am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend, especially if you want to camp.

**Sun, May 1 Kankakee River, IL**  
**Beginner**

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691**  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net  
**Dave & Mary Stjern 217-546-6474**  
DStjernlaw@aol.com

(Also see trip listing for Saturday, April 31—Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.) This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. We will paddle from Bird Park in Kankakee to the Class D Campground /boat landing just west of Warner Bridge Road/ Kankakee River State Park. This stretch is known for more rocks, gradient, numerous islands and some beautiful limestone outcroppings. We usually stop to have lunch at the picnic tables in the State Park and later hike the Rock Creek Canyon if there is interest. **Directions:** Take IL RT 17 or IL RT 113 to where they intersect on the west side of Kankakee at the Kankakee River. On the west side of the river, IL RT 113 (Wall Street) ends at IL RT 17. Go south on Wall Street to the very first driveway; turn left into Bird Park and follow the road to the left under the RT 17 bridge to the boat landing. Carshift at 9:30am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend-especially if you want to camp.

## Trip Announcements

*Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.*

**Sat, Apr 9 Vermillion River, IL**  
**Whitewater**

**John & Mary Puskar 630-393-8821**  
jmpuskar@ameritech.net

Contact the leaders for details.

**Sun, Apr 10 Nippersink Creek, IL**  
**Trip Leaders' Trip**

**Joan Taylor 630-495-1565**  
taylorjrs@aol.com  
**Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500**  
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net

Training for new leaders and a review for experienced leaders. Car shift at 9:30. After car shift, there will be a review and question session on land. We will continue the training over lunch. The trip is open to all experienced paddlers. Bring life jacket, rain gear, lunch. Take Rt. 12 or Rt. 31 to intersection of 12 & 31. Go west on Tyron Rd to Keystone Rd. Turn left, south, to Glacial Park.

**Wed-Sun, Apr 13-17 Iowa Rivers**  
**Exploration**

**Al Donaldson 319 277-3194**  
alandonaldson@insightbb.com

Scouting Northeastern Iowa Rivers We will be trying out sections of the Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa, Volga, Turkey and/or Upper Iowa rivers. The difficulty levels of these streams vary widely depending on water levels and previous flood damage, so no correct level can be given. However, we will be bringing one large tandem canoe and lots of cutting tools as well as requisite lines, poles, floats and other devices to ensure that everyone with a bit of a sense of humor can get through safely.

Participants may come for one day, for several days, or for the whole shebang. Just let me know.

Camping or motel-ing will be available. Please contact Al Donaldson by email (alandonaldson@sprintmail.com) prior to the trip so that details can be sent. Maps and directions, as well as motel and campground information, will be emailed to participants. Approximate schedule (again, depending on weather, river levels and the attitude of Mother Nature):

**Date: Wednesday, April 13**—Wapsipinicon River north of Independence; Put in: Sigglekov Park; Take out: Littleton or Independence

**Date: Thursday, April 14**— Maquoketa River ; Location not set yet

**Date: Friday, April 15**— Volga River; Put in: Fayette, IA; Take out: Volga River State Recreation Area

**Date: Saturday, April 16**— Turkey River; put in and take out to be determined. (Note: the Turkey River suffered from the floods last May, and with the relatively light use that it gets, some sections were still in rather awful shape last September. If the damage has been corrected, we will paddle the segment between Elgin and Elkader. If not, we will paddle from Elkader to Garber, a section that was in good condition last September. **Date: Sunday, April 17**— Paddlers' Choice: Lots of options. We will choose between short paddles that will get everyone home in good time.

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**Fri-Sun, Apr 15-17**  
**Instructor Development Workshop**  
 @ College of DuPage  
**Steve Shapiro 847-253-5875**  
**steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net**

If you feel like you would like to pay back the sport by becoming an instructor this is the time. You should have basic moving water skills. Please call Steve Shapiro if you have any questions or concerns about the program. To register call Maren McKellin at 630-942-3762 to register. the course is called Phys Ed 188.

**Sat-Sun, Apr 16-17 Tippecanoe River, IN**  
**Beginner**  
**Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296**  
**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554**  
**Pclifford38@hotmail.com**

We will be paddling the river on Saturday and Sunday after a 9:00 am (sharp) carshift from the campground. Directions: take I-80/I94 east to I65 and south on I65 to US 30. Go east on US30 to US35 and south on US35 through Knox to Tippecanoe River State Park and to the campground. DO NOT PAY THE CANOE LAUNCH FEE! Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to the trip.

**Sun, Apr 17**  
**Beginner**  
**Fox River, IL**  
**Glenn Rabick 847-525-2821**  
**jojoheads@msn.com**

Car Shift: 9:30 a.m. at campground south of Algonquin Road on Route 31. Call Leader for further details (cell 630-640-5375.)

**Sat-Sun, Apr 23-24 Vermillion River, IL**  
**Advanced Beginner**

**Larry & Evelyn Tennyson 630-497-2516**  
**eltennyson@comcast.net**

We hope you will join us on the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River (Illinois 1st National Wild and Scenic River) for one day or two. We will meet each day at the river bridge in Kickapoo State Park at 9:30 AM. From there we will proceed, all together to the put-in that we select that morning. Take I-57 south to I-74 at Champaign-Urbana. Go East on I-74 to the exit marked Kickapoo State Park and follow signs to the park. Get there early and reserve a campsite for the night. Tell the ranger you are with PSC. We will try to camp all in one area. Allow 3 hours driving time from Chicago. Join us for dinner at a steakhouse in Danville Sat. night if you wish.

**Sat, Apr 23**  
**Vermillion River, IL**  
**Whitewater**  
**John & Mary Puskar 630-393-8821**  
**jmpuskar@ameritech.net**

Contact the leaders for details.

**Sun, Apr 24**  
**DuPage River, IL**  
**Beginner**  
**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554**  
**Pclifford38@hotmail.com**

We are going to canoe a section of the DuPage River that hasn't been paddled for years. We are going to put in at Centennial Park on Jackson St. in Naperville and canoe through town to Knock Knolls Park on the south side of Naperville. This is a very interesting part of the DuPage River. I have listed the trip as

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advanced beginner because there will be some maneuvering on some sections along with some areas of quick water and turns. If you are interested please contact one of the leaders. You must have a dumpbag, PFD, and Lunch. Carshift at 930AM from the parking lot at centennial Park. Directions: From I88 exit at Winfield road and go South to Diehl Road; east on Diehl Road to Mill Street. South (right) on Mill Street to the end which is Jackson. Turn right on Jackson to the parking lot on the left, and go to the Canoe ramp on the south side by the river.

**Sun, Apr 24**  
**Pecatonica River, WI**  
**IPC Kick-Off**  
**Sigrid Pilgrim 847-328-0145**  
**sigpilgr@comcast.net**

Set aside Sunday, April 24th for the Illinois Paddling Council's Annual Spring Kickoff Trip which will take place this year on the Pecatonica, in support of efforts to develop the Pecatonica Water Trail. We will paddle 7 miles, from Brewster Landing to West McConnell Road Bridge. Bring a PFD, lunch, and dump clothes in a dry bag. River levels can be high in the spring. Insurance fee will apply.

How to get to Brewsters Landing, from Chicago area. Take Interstate 90 to first Rockford exit, which will be for Rte. 20 bypass.; take Rte. 20 bypass to Rte. 20 and go West toward Freeport; take Rte. 20 bypass around Freeport to the Rte 26 exit and go North on Rte. 26; turn West on Winslow Rd which is the last road before the Wisconsin border.

The shuttle from Brewsters Landing: Go back east to Basswood Rd and go South; follow Basswood Rd to Old Mill Rd; turn right on Old Mill Rd and follow road to stop sign at Orangeville Rd; turn right on Orangeville and left just before the bridge.

After the trip, anyone interested is welcome to socialize at The Davey's Riverside Inn in Winslow whose owners are looking forward to serving paddlers before or after our paddling adventure.

For details on the Pecatonica and other information go to [www.paddlethepec.com](http://www.paddlethepec.com) or contact Lee Butler [lbutler9@juno.com](mailto:lbutler9@juno.com) or Joe Ginger [jeginger@mwci.net](mailto:jeginger@mwci.net)

**Fri-Sun, Apr 29-May 1 Current River, MO**

**Ken Cole 630-759-9137**  
**rufustoo@att.net**  
**Dan Benthall 630-208-8249**  
**dbthal@comcast.net**

The Current River is one of the jewels of the Ozark National Rivers system. Located in south central Missouri, the river flows thru some of the most scenic areas in the state. We will base camp Thursday, Friday, & Saturday and shuttle each morning to the Put-In and paddle to the Take-Out. While this is an easy river to paddle, you will need maneuvering skills to get around deadfall. The trip will end about noon Sunday. The group size and camping spaces are limited. Please e-mail or call the trip leaders for more detailed information.