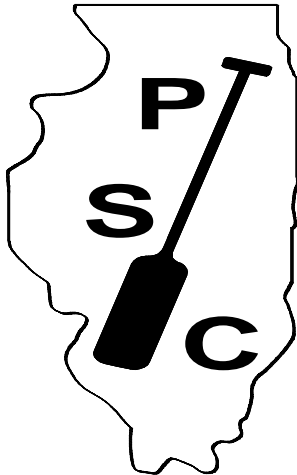


# PSC Paddler



Newsletter of the

*Prairie State Canoeists*

Volume 37 #5

*August-September 2005*

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Visit our website at:

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

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*Libertyville*

**847-680-1223**

*secretary@prairiestatecanoeists.org*

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(2005-2006)

**815-765-3402**

*morrall@t6b.com*

**Joan Taylor**

*Lombard*

(2005-2006)

**630-495-1565**

*taylorjrs@aol.com*

## From the Chair:

While this paddling season has been frustrating because of low river levels, the PSC Board of Directors and several committees have been busy planning events and administering the business of the club.

Tracy Hunt, Linda Gebhard, Becky Sells, Barb Nyden, Melinda Tury and many others have taken on major responsibilities for the success of our first **Summer Picnic**. See the **Announcement on page 4**. Ray Ziemer and I are collecting goodies for a raffle at the picnic; if you can arrange a contribution, please let us know.

The most important function of any organization is identifying its **leadership**. The **Nominating Committee** is now asking for nominations for elected positions for next season. You may contact any committee member to offer your time and talents or nominate another member for office. Contact information is on **page 3**.

Make plans now to attend the **Fall Dinner on Saturday evening, November 12, 2005**. Full details will be announced in the October-November newsletter.

Now, whether it is a trickle, a puddle, the dew on a wet leaf, the birdbath in your own back yard, find a way to **GET OUT THERE AND PADDLE!**

Bill Kessler  
Chair, 2005

**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, or Linda Gebhart lgebhard@aurora.edu; 630-466-7093.

### Newsletter Deadlines

Vol 37#	Deadline	Trip Announcements
5	July 1	August-September
6	September 1	October-November
Vol 38#	Deadline	Trip Announcements
1	November 15	Dec 05-Jan 06
2	January 15	February-March
3	March 1	April-May

Contributions should be e-mailed to: [newsletter@prairiestatecanoeists.org](mailto:newsletter@prairiestatecanoeists.org)  
OR mailed to: PSC Paddler, c/o Sherri Johnson, 1319 Ivy Lane, Apt 103; Naperville, IL 60563

## The Canoe Club needs your help!!

A ***Nominating Committee*** has been formed to find members willing to serve on the PSC Board of Directors and as Officers of the club.

The following positions need to be filled for 2006: **Co-Chair; Secretary; and 5 Board members.**

If you wish to volunteer your time to help the club, or if you would like to recommend someone to serve on the board or as an officer please contact any of the committee members:

<i>John Ziegler</i>	<i>847-742-7316</i>	<i>canucamp@sbcglobal.net</i>
<i>Sherri Johnson</i>	<i>630-527-6691</i>	<i>canoesew@sbcglobal.net</i>
<i>Susan Halvorsen</i>	<i>815-397-5145</i>	<i>susanh50@tds.net</i>
<i>Al Donaldson</i>	<i>815-654-3195</i>	<i>alandonaldson@sprintmail.com</i>
<i>Joann Benedetto</i>		<i>benedettoj@sbcglobal.net</i>

Mark your Calendars  
**Saturday evening, November 12, 2005.**  
**PSC Fall Dinner**

Full details will be announced in the October-November newsletter.

### 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.

**Wanted:** Good solo used canoe between 12' and 15' in length. Prefer Bell, Wenonah, Mohawk or Mad River models. **Richard Tekulve 812-346-7921**

**For Sale:** Wenonah Solitude Fiberglass Canoe, Length 15'6", Condition: Good; Price: Negotiable. Contact: Tim Smith 815-7347554 evenings; email: smitht@essex1.com

**For Sale:** 15' 7" Green wood and canvas canoe for sale. \$750 Contact John Ziegler for more info. 847-742-7316, canucamp@sbcglobal.net

**For Sale:** Blackhawk Shadow solo canoe. Green FG w/wood gunwhales; seldom used. Mark 608-362-8256

## **NOTICE: Guard you gear!**

*Below are two reports that confirm how our culture is changing. Two paddlers have had their gear taken in situations that might not have presumed risky in the paddling community until now. Evidently the mutual respect for another paddler's gear is not as great as it used to be....*

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### **Missing kayak**

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Dear Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Chair of PSC,

I was hoping you could help me. My fiberglass sea kayak is missing and presumed stolen off of the median of Highway 39S/90E just south of Madison, WI (near mile marker 158 SB, about 1 mile northwest of 51/73 intersection). She disappeared between 5 and 7 pm on Sunday, June 19, 2005 after I was instructed to leave her by the side of the road. My roof rack failed and came off my roof along with my boat. I couldn't get the rack reattached, and the state trooper was concerned about my safety along that particular stretch of highway. I'm offering a \$250 reward for her return, regardless of condition. Below is a description of the boat, contact info, and the long story. Could you pass along the reward notice, boat description, hull ID#, and contact information? It's an unusual boat, and has A LOT of sentimental value to me. Feel free to pass this information along to other paddling groups and repair shops, and please keep a look out. Thank you for any and all help, Susan Wilson. Home: 847-490-1159; Work: 312-433-8000 x2118; Cell: 224-420-0454; Email: avian@sbcglobal.net

**\$250 REWARD** for Stolen Sea Kayak! Yellow & White Impex Montauk HULL ID # JBZMP929E000.

**Boat Description:** The 2000 Montauk diverges quite a bit from the current model shown on Impex's web site (<http://www.impexkayak.com/montauk.html#hull>). The 2000 model has rectangular front and rear hatches of yellow plastic (not black neoprene). Also, the 2000 model does not have a recessed area for a compass, and the deck rigging is a slightly different pattern.

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### **Lost Kayak**

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**Wood and canvas kayak;** cream color paint with a touch of beige. It was taken from a popular launch and takeout spot on the south bank of the Des Plaines in Lemont. It was dropped off at 9 am then left unattended while I went to pick up a paddling partner and kayak. Upon our return at 10:30 it was gone. I searched up and downstream in the thought someone might have dragged it into the bushes to make it less visible, or have pushed it into the river. My partner paddled down to Isle a La Cache to see if it had lodged in a deadfall, but both measures were unsuccessful. **This boat was built by my son 30+ years ago and is irreplaceable.** **REWARD!** Harold Hensold; hhhensold@sbcglobal.net; 708-748-0155

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## Welcome New Members (since March 7, 2005)

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**Alesi, Joe & Lynne**

312-209-1818  
10 Wenholz Ave., E Dundee, IL 60118  
jlalesi@netscape.com

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**Ballard, Randy**

815-229-7457  
4103 Pinecrest Rd., Rockford, IL 61107  
randyballard@msn.com

---

**Balt, David**

630-742-2619  
11 Stone Ave., North Aurora, IL 60542

---

**Berg, Jim & Lynn**

630-355-7387  
986 Merrimac Circle, Naperville, IL 60540  
jberg@wideopenwest.com

---

**Bess, Seaby**

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614 Downing Road, Libertyville, IL 60048  
sbess@doorsystems.com

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**Birren, David**

608-274-7525  
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**Blauwkamp, Ronald & Carol****Bloyd-Peshkin, Alec & Sharon**

708-524-0863  
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**Bremner, William****Cangelosi, Donna**

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**Cipolla, Margaret**

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18 S. Stonington, Palatine, IL 60074  
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**Colin, Ronald**

708-366-4072  
1009 Lathrop Ave., Forest Park, IL 60130

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**Conley, Ronald**

1584 Lin Lor Ln., Elgin, IL 60123

---

**Coons, Steven**

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**Dudley, Sandra**

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**Eckels, Tom**

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**Flessner, Mark & Wanda**

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## Welcome New Members (since March 7, 2005)

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**Kielch, Thad & Colleen**

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**Kirchen, Steve****Klose, Roger & Suzanne****Kremer, John****Krohn, Michael****Kuhn, Jeff**

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---

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## Welcome New Members (since March 7, 2005)

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**Ryan, Beth & John**

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### 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, Aug 6****DuPage River****Depends on water levels****George Stenitzer****630-215-6751****Sun, Aug 7****Mid-Summer PSC Picnic****Silver Springs State Park****Tracy Hunt****630-832-3538****tjhunt@netzero.net**

Canceled.

Contact Leaders for details.

## Trip Announcements

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### Sun, Aug 7 Fox River Yorkville to Silver Springs State Park

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Melinda Tury 630-894-2285  
Rebecca Sells 630-466-7093

Contact Leaders for details.

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### Sat, Aug 13 Kankakee River, IL, Momence-Aroma Park

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

The current is usually fast enough to make this a somewhat quick trip. Lunch will be at the take-out, or, for those who wish at the Glad Fest in Momence.

Directions: Take I-57 South to Rt. 17 East. Go East on Rt. 17 until just before the Ford dealer outside Momence. Turn left onto River South Road and continue approx. ½ Mile to the put-in. Carshift at 9:30 a. m.

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### Sat-Sun, Aug 13-14 Wisconsin Whitewater

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

We will paddle whitewater rivers in northern WI including the Wolf and the Peshtigo. The choice of rivers will depend upon water levels and temperature. The rivers will include Wolf (Section IV if accessible) and Peshtigo (Section III). On Sun we will run (several times) the Wausau whitewater course.

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### Sat-Sun, Aug 13-14 Upper Iowa River, IA

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Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707  
stvelaporte@earthlink.net

Canceled.

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### Sun, Aug 21 Kishwaukee River, IL New Members Trip

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Bill Kessler 708-547-5314  
Kslr@aol.com

This is a special invitation to **NEW MEMBERS** (and veterans) of Prairie State Canoeists to meet other club members and enjoy a popular river trail. We will put in at Cherry Valley. Remember, you must have your own canoe or kayak and paddles and a PFD for each person. Note: On this trip, PFDs must be worn at all times on the water. Bring lunch, drinking water, and a change of clothes in a dry bag. Contact the leader and let us know that you are coming.

Directions: Take I-90 toward Rockford. Take the Rockford/Rte 20 exit after milepost 61. Go east on Rte 20 a short distance and turn right at the light onto Mill Street, then left on State and right into Bauman Park. Be ready to car shift at 9:30am

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### Sat, Aug 27 Kankakee River, IL

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#### Bird Park to Kankakee River State Park

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Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net

Mike Caplan & Doug Spitzer 847-677-5053  
f1overdrive@aol.com

(Also see trip listing for Sunday, August 28—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

## Trip Announcements

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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/wade 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.

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.

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### Sat-Mon, Sep 3-5 Namekagon River, WI Advanced Beginner/River Camping

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**Sherri Johnson** 630-527-6691  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net  
**John & Marilyn Ziegler** 847-742-7316  
canucamp@sbcglobal.net

This river is part of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. We will paddle from the County K landing below the Trego Dam to Riverside landing of the St Croix River. We will be river camping at campsites that are maintained by the National Park Service. The sites have pit toilets, fire rings and drinking water. The Namekagon flows an average of 3 miles per hour in this stretch. The river is rated as Advanced Beginner as it has lots of ripples and things to negotiate but isn't considered to be technical. We will do about 14 miles on Saturday, 12-17 miles on Sunday, and 4.5-7.5 miles on Monday. This shouldn't be too taxing and should allow us all to be setting up camp in mid-afternoon Saturday and Sunday and to be on the road heading home around noon on Monday. The drive to the Trego, WI area requires approximately 4 hours from Madison, WI but worth the trip! If you would like to participate in a community/shared dinner on Saturday night, please let us know. You must call or e-mail for more details and to sign up for this awesome trip!

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### Sun, Aug 28 Kankakee River, IL State Line to Momence

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**Sherri Johnson** 630-527-6691  
canoesew@sbcglobal.net

**Mike Caplan & Doug Spitzer** 847-677-5053  
f1overdrive@aol.com

(Also see trip listing for Saturday, Aug 27—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

## 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-Mon, Sep 3-5 Wisconsin River, WI River Camping

**Bob Fenger 847-356-2171**

**Louis Igyarto 847-587-7462**

Directions: From Chicago, take I-90 (NW Tollway) north to Madison, WI. Take US RT 12 & 18 west. Follow RT 18 west to Dodgeville. In Dodgeville pick up SR 23 north to SR 130 north. Follow SR 130 until it turns into SR 133 west. Follow SR 133 into Muscoda. Turn right (north) and proceed through town to Victora Park, which is located along the river, just before the bridge. Put-in: Meet at the Muscoda boat launch in Victora Park at 9:00 am on Saturday morning. At that time we will make the decision regarding where we will put in and take out in accordance with the current weather and river conditions.

### Sun, Sep 4 Lower Des Plaines River, IL

**Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019**

**richrothrock@yahoo.com**

This is a Historic canoe route, Willow Springs to Isle a la Cache in Romeoville (approx. 12 miles). Put-in at Columbia Woods Forest Preserve canoe landing, downstream right from the Willow Springs Road Bridge, west side of Willow Springs Road 1/2 mile north of Archer Avenue (Hwy 171). Entrance into Columbia Woods is between the railroad overpass and the gas station. Car shift 9:30 a.m.

### Sat, Sep 10 Moving Water II

#### Vermilion River

**Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707**

**Dan Benthall 630-208-8249**

We are going to try to do the Moving Water

II training that was cancelled in May, due to low water. Participants should have attended Moving Water I. This will be a chance to continue to build your moving water skills on a very picturesque river. Major whitewater will be portaged.

This training will be dependent on student interest, instructor availability and water level. Anyone interested in this training is asked to e-mail Steve Laporte at [stevelaporte@earthlink.net](mailto:stevelaporte@earthlink.net). If e-mail is not an option, call me at 630-665-5707. In either case, please be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

### Sat, Sep 10 Badfish Creek, WI

**Al Donaldson 319-277-3194**

**or 815-654-3195**

**[alandonaldson@sprintmail.com](mailto:alandonaldson@sprintmail.com)**

**Melinda Tury 630-894-2285**

Contact leader for details.

### Sat-Sun, Sep 10-11 Pine River, MI

**Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel 708-386-1371**

**[chocolate.house@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chocolate.house@sbcglobal.net)**

**Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554**

**[Pclifford38@hotmail.com](mailto:Pclifford38@hotmail.com)**

We will paddle two days on the Pine River (Elm Flats to Low Bridge), returning to camp after the first day. The Pine is a beautiful river with moderate to quick current and one stretch of Class I rapids. Tight bends and chutes, especially on the second day, require basic paddling skills e. g. draws, pries, etc. The Pine is part of the wild and scenic river program. However, because we have moved this trip beyond the permit expiration date,

## Trip Announcements

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we will not be required to obtain permits; the parking fee will be in effect, however (\$5 for the weekend). We will camp at Pine River Paddlesports Center on the left (west) side of highway 37 just before you cross the Pine River going north.

**Sun, Sep 11 Lower Fox River, IL**

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

This section of the lower Fox River from Sheridan to Wedron (approx. 11 miles) is always interesting with the rock formations. Hoping for a beautiful early fall trip. The put-in will be at Scooters on Robinson Road at the river just north of downtown Sheridan. We will take-out at either Ayers Landing or C&M canoe. There is a \$1.00 fee for putting-in and a \$3.00-\$5.00 fee for parking and take-out. This is a longer trip than just the Rte. 52 to Wedron section, which is the second half of this trip. Carshift at 9:30 am

**Mon-Thu, Sep 12-15 Blue River, IN**

**Exploring**

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

Email or call for details.

**Sat, Sep 17 Upper Des Plaines, WI**

**Glenn Jensen 708- 749-6141**  
**mixinmimi@aol.com**

Contact leader for details.

**Sat-Sun, Sep 17-18Pecatonica River, WI**  
**East Branch**

**Mark & Merri Morrall 815-765-3402**  
**morrall@t6b.com**

Contact leader for details.

**Sun, Sep 18 Sugar River, WI**

**Tracy Hunt 630-832-3538**  
**tjhunt@netzero.net**

Contact leader for details.

**Fri-Mon, Sep 23-25 Wisconsin Whitewater**

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

Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Time to paddle - Pike, Peshtigo, Wolf. River selection will depend upon water levels, paddler interests, and weather. Call leaders for details.

**Sat, Sep 24 Mekan River, WI**

**Al Donaldson 319 277-3194**  
**or 815-654-3195**

**alandonaldson@sprintmail.com**

**Melinda Tury 630 894-2285**

Contact leader for details.

**Sat-Sun, Sep 24-25 Kickapoo River, WI**  
**Fall Colors Trip**

**Sherri Johnson 630-527-6691**  
**canoesew@sbcglobal.net**

**John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316**  
**canucamp@sbcglobal.net**

This is our annual fall appreciation trip. Usually the colors are phenomenal and the river valley as seen from the lookout at the Wildcat Mountain State Park is breathtaking.

## Trip Announcements

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It is known as the 'crookedist river in Wisconsin." Saturday night we like to have a feast/ community dinner. We have a group site reserved at Wildcat Mountain State Park (the one in the trees). Call for details, to sign up for what to contribute to the dinner and to reserve your spot. Directions: Take I-90-94 west from Madison. Exit RT 82 at the Mauston (Milepost 69). Follow RT 82 west to RT 80. Go south through Elroy to RT 33 at Union Center. Take RT 333 west to Wildcat Mountain State Park or on to Ontario to the put-in. We will carshift from the campground at 8:30. Put-in is on the east side of the river at the edge of town at 9:00. Please call /e-mail if you plan to attend.

**Sat-Sun, Sep 24-25 Wolf River, WI,  
Fall Colors, Whitewater**

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

Contact leader for details.

**Sun, Sep 25 Upper Fox River, WI**

**John & Barb Shaw 630-961-3479  
barbshaw46@hotmail.com**

Contact leader for details.

**Sat, Oct 1 Fox River, IL  
South Elgin-St Charles**

**Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821  
jojoheads@msn.com**

Contact leader for details.

**Sat-Tue, Oct 1-11 Michigan Rivers**

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

**Tom Lindblade  
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net**

Schedule is tentative and depends on conditions. Call or email for more info and to let us know you are coming.

## For Future Planning

**Fri-Mon, Oct 8-10 Current River, MO  
Advanced Beginner Base Camping**

**Ken Cole 630-759-9137  
rufustoo@att.net**

**Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707  
stevelaporte@earthlink.net**

Join us Columbus Day weekend as we paddle the **Current River** one of the jewels of the Ozark National River system. Located in south central Missouri, the river flows thru some of the most scenic areas in the state. It is a

easy, safe trip with just a few riffles. We will base camp Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights and shuttle each morning to the Put-In and paddle to the Take-Out. The campground has running water, restrooms & showers. While an easy river to paddle, you will need some maneuvering skills to get around deadfall. The trip will end about 1pm Monday. The group size and camping spaces are limited. Please email or call the trip leaders for more detailed information.

## Trip Reports

**Apr 24**

**Pecatonica River, IL**

This was the annual IPC Kickoff Trip to help celebrate efforts to develop the Pecatonica Water Trail. This is a lovely river in NW Illinois in a hilly part of the state. Lined with huge trees all along, this river is fairly wide, 100+ feet in places, with even at low water levels, a nice current making paddling easy. Some downfalls, but they are not a problem, easy to maneuver around. Absence of houses along the river makes for a pleasant and very peaceful environment. Carpets of Virginia Blue Bells could be seen from the river. Saw a number of ducks, a hawk, plenty of migrating birds, no other wildlife given the fairly large group, but Joe and Lee have seen many deer and other animals when paddling there. This is a nice river to paddle when there is no water anywhere else, and would make an excellent fall color trip. There is a state park, Lake Aqua Na, not too far away. No convenient place for lunch to stop, other than in boats, as river banks are very muddy. If planning a trip contact Joe or Lee (above) they will provide carpeting at the takeout to avoid muddy feet! This is a very much underused, under known river. **Sigrid Pilgrim**

**Apr 24**

**Des Plaines River**

Three solo paddlers enjoyed a crisp, partly cloudy night for a Full Moon paddle. Lots of Beaver tails slapping as we paddled from Riverside Park in Libertyville to Linconshire north of Ryerson Dam. Both small dams (north of Rt. 60 and south of Rt. 60) were runnable if you used the cut outs. No blockages to portage around. Full Moon was hidden till the last 45 min. behind clouds but was spectacular as it rose above the clouds for the rest of the evening. An 11:00 P.M. take out and the weekend was complete. **Andy Cocallas**

**Apr 24**

**DuPage River, IL**

We had to change the put-in for the DuPage River 3 different times because of problems and conflicts in Naperville. The biggest problem was the river being blocked in downtown Naperville due to bridge construction. We did paddle from Shorewood to Channahon on a cool but sunny day. I want to thank Ray Ziemer for making sure the changes were listed on the web site. Thanks to those who showed up. **Paul & Alice Clifford**

**Apr 30**

**Kankakee River, IL**

We saw a mink, 2 Pileated and 10 red head woodpeckers as well as several geese and ducks and a small heron rookery. Logs are starting to choke the river in 2 places near the start and there were several new good sand bars for lunch and resting. Two Kankakee River Conservancy boats were seen picking up trash as well as their signs showing they are acquiring property and preserving it. Signs also were at the take out and along the river for river adopting businesses and organizations... Wouldn't this be great for all rivers? **Jim Deck**

**May 7**

**Fox River, IL**

An early surprising observation about this trip was all that called, showed up and they were on time. It was cool and cloudy-not good bird flying weather. But we did see some grounded and flying sand hill cranes. A stress could have been the lunch spot (had no tables or water). There was a good outhouse. Good guys Ben and Jody Auliff picked up some river trash. Friendly and interesting people made this a pleasant trip. **Jerry Kolar**

## Trip Reports

**May 7-8**

**Sugar Creek, IN**

Once again the Wine and Cheese Fest was a success. We had a small group but enjoyed the 2 days on the Sugar River. The fest was great, even though the Raccoons ate the last third of my nachoes that were on the table while we sat at the camp fire. On Saturday we came across a log jam that was on fire. Half of our group stayed to try controlling the fire using our lunch bags for water to reduce the flames while I sent the balance of our group on to report the fire to the authorities. Thanks to all that took part. **Paul Clifford**

**May 14 South Branch Kishwaukee River, IL**

The USGS gauge at Fairdale read 2.5', anything lower than this would be too low. Along this stretch there is little shoreline development. There are a few strainers that may cause concern, but with the slow current, beginners should have no problem maneuvering around them.

After five river miles there is a town park on the right, providing rest rooms, water, and picnic tables. **Mark Morrall**

**May 15 South Branch Kishwaukee River, IL**

Along this stretch you can expect a few high clay banks, riffles and many gravel bars. There are a few homes to paddle past along with some dilapidated cabins along the shore.

**Mark Morrall**

**May 21**

**Sugar River, WI**

We had a mixed group of some veteran paddlers and some fairly new club members.

There were 6 canoes and 5 kayaks and everybody survived the day without dumping even though we had several downfalls to go around, over, or through. Many thanks to Al Donaldson for being lead boat and keeping us on course through the many possible turns and helping get all paddlers through the tight spots. Some of the wildlife spotted is: river otters; green heron; red tail hawk; snakes; and heard sand hill cranes. Thanks to Rebecca and Carole for the car shift and to Melinda for driver return. **John & Marilyn Ziegler**

**May 22**

**Upper Fox River, WI**

Although the previous night's weather forecast was indicating probable thunderstorms and the morning drive to the put-in took some of us through some spotty rain, the four of us (yes, only four!) who risked the elements found that the instant we put in on the water the skies turned blue and sunny, and the temperature was in the low seventies. A spectacular day for a paddle! The water level was slightly below average; however, it presented no paddling problems or concerns.

Wildlife sightings were numerous; herons, an otter, hawks, and a large very active beaver were observed. We also believe a red fox was also spotted.

The lunch stop was brief and a pleasant day's paddling was concluded about 2:30 pm.

Thanks to Tom Croak for the car shift and Patrick Condon for sharing some extremely interesting maps which included some aerial views of the river route as well as topographic information. **Tracy Hunt**

## Trip Reports

**May 28-30**

**Wisconsin River, WI**

The Beautiful Wisconsin River still commands its timeless posture as "The Best". On this trip the sandbars were plentiful with the water level being about average. The weather was a bit on the cool side, perfect for paddling, but a tad too chilly for swimming. Constantly changing skies, shifting from clear to cloudy, with head winds being prevalent, kept us under the threat of storms through the entire weekend, but fortunately the only storm came in Sunday evening. The sighting of eagles has become commonplace along this stretch of the river and on this trip Ruth & Louis had the good fortune to spot 6 of them, as well as 29 snakes and countless turtles. Ice cream and the new store at Port Andrew was a very welcome break. And healthy young boys with shovels, in timeless tradition, were once again last seen searching for the elusive legend of china. A great group and cool weather combined for some most excellent campfires. Another of those weekends that I just wish could have kept rolling on forever.

**Louis & Ruth Igyarto**

**May 30**

**Cedar Creek, WI**

The plan was to paddle the Milwaukee River, but it was very low. The alternative was Cedar Creek which was also low. If we had waited a day or two more without rain, the trip would have been cancelled. The trip started in the Jackson marsh; a scenic area with birds and grassy banks. We cut out one downfall, portaged over 2, and scraped bottom in a few more places. On the whole the water was adequate and we had cool breezes and a fine paddle.

**Terry & Jo Heckenbach**

**June 4 South Branch Kishwaukee River, IL**

The log jam crew met at 9:00 a.m. at Potawatomi Woods Forest Preserve, just Northwest of Kirkland. Present were Pam and Mark Skeels, Melinda Tury (Melinda, thanks for the shuttle help!), Merri and Mark Morrall, Randy Hermanson and Al Donaldson.

In a bright and fairly calm June morning, the crew launched three canoes and one kayak, carrying approximately enough lumberjack tools (both modern and "classic") to deforest the entire Northern Hemisphere. Some enterprising souls had gone down the section previously, clearing passages through the worst of the log jams, so the task of the crew was to make those cleared spots navigable and safe under varying river levels and to remove additional hazards.

After about three hours of extremely enjoyable cutting, tugging, wading, mud slogging, equipment repair and head-scratching, the crew had made the section down to McQueen Forest Preserve a bit more civilized. Mother Nature then rewarded the clean up crew with a little thunderstorm, making the take out (up a narrow, slightly muddy, very poison ivy infested and slick 40 degree hillside) a significant challenge. The Forest Preserve folks were kind enough to allow us access to the site by automobile, ensuring that the half mile portage back to the vehicles was not needed.

**Al Donaldson**

# *Prairie State Canoeists*

c/o Ken Cole  
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