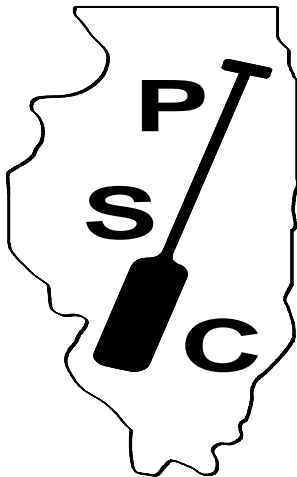


PSC Paddler



Newsletter of the

Prairie State Canoeists

Volume 37 #6

October-November 2005

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From the Chair:

This has been our summer of discontent, if you count only the drought-induced frustration over the parched conditions in our favorite rivers and streams. But we certainly have had some high points, the highest probably being our first-ever summer picnic. Tracy Hunt started the ball rolling, Linda Gebhard rose to the occasion to manage many details, and Melinda Tury, Becky Sells, and Barb Nyden, to name only a few, handled major responsibilities. Premium contributions for the raffle came from Carl and John's Paddlin', Chicagoland Canoe Base, Dick's Sporting Goods, Freeman Sports, Geneva Kayak Center, Max's Dawg House, The Painted Plate, Sig Pilgrim, REI, Rutabaga, Paddle and Trail, Offshore, Northwest Passage, and Melinda Tury. Almost 90 PSC'ers attended, the raffle raised \$600.00, and everyone had a good time. Will we do it again next year? Silly question.

It wasn't dry everywhere. **Mark and Merri Morrall** found water in the **Manigotagan River** in Manitoba, and **Dan and Ellen Benthal, John and Marylyn Ziegler, and Ken Cole** spent more than a week in Ontario's pristine **Woodland Caribou Provincial Park**. They will tell us all about their adventures at the annual Fall Dinner and Meeting at Lamb's Farm on November 12. Great food and plenty of it. Make your reservations now. And to beat the high gas prices, we will organize an on-line carpool so you can share the ride to the dinner.

Dues for 2006? Already? Yes, PSC operates on a calendar year, so get your 2006 dues in now (same amount since 1999 - can't beat this deal) to be assured of being included in the annual directory and receiving all the newsletters without interruption.

PSC needs your talent and time. The nominating committee welcomes your suggestions of candidates for directors, co-chair and secretary. Call John Ziegler.

Now, the season is not over. Find some liquid and get out there and paddle! See you at the Fall Dinner.

Bill Kessler

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

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

Learn to Kayak!

Learn to paddle a kayak safely and responsibly at these Fall and Winter pool classes. The **Chicago Whitewater Association (CWA)**, in conjunction with local sponsoring organizations, offers pool classes both in the Fall (September through December) and Winter (January thru March). These classes introduce students to whitewater boating in kayaks designed for whitewater use (though many of the skills taught can be transferred to non-whitewater paddling). Strokes, braces, the Eskimo roll, proper equipment and safety considerations are all taught. They are offered at the following locations in and around the Chicago area.

Contact CWA member Jim Berg at jberg@wideopenwest.com with any questions or go to CWA's website for up-to-date information: <http://www.chicagowhitewater.org/cwa/>

Naperville North High School

Fall Pool Sessions are on Sunday Mornings
9:30-11:00AM October 30-December 11

Cost: \$125

Send checks to NNHS Aquatics 899 North
Mill Street, Naperville IL 60563

Pool Contact: Brian Pour

bpour@ncusd203.org

Lead Instructor: Randy Hetfield

rhetfield@earthlink.net for more info.

Oak Park YMCA

Fall Pool Sessions will be starting October
9th and go 10 weeks to December 11th.

Sunday evenings: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm stu-
dents, 7:30 - 9:00 for instructors. Students
should call the YMCA directly to sign up
(708) 383-5200

Conant High School

Classes start Thursday night, October 13.
Classroom 7:30 - 8; students' pool time 8 -
9; instructors' pool time 9 - 10. Students
call HSD 211 to register 847-755-6820 or
register online at www.d211.org (click on
continuing education)

Lattof YMCA

Winter Only. Classes will run from 1/8/06 -
3/04/06.

Registration begins 12/12/05 (Y members),
12/26/05 (non-members).
Contact the Lattof YMCA at 847-296-3376
to register. You can contact the lead in-
structor, Jim Cronin, with questions at
james_cronin@baxter.com or call 847-526-
6472 (h) 847-270-5779 (w)

Lost Kayak...FOUND!

The **Wood and canvas kayak** reported missing by Harold Hensold was found! Harold said that an honest person, thinking the boat had been abandoned, took it home then tried to contact the owner via the IL DNR. This apparently was not easy task but others in the paddling community helped out. Don Muggonburg from the IPC got the parties connected and the boat was returned safely. Good news!

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.

Welcome New Members (since July 27, 2005)

Butler, Lee

Miner, Don

630-378-0069

1089 Crestwood Ln, Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Deardorff, Paul & Anne

773-745-2989

2750 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60707

pnadeardorff@aol.com

Peard, Frank & Jan

630-323-8034

712 E. Third St., Hinsdale, IL 60521-4709

frank_peard@ml.com

Eisenbraun, Terrance & Jennifer

Schrader, Steven & Deb

815-929-9446

632 Beckman Dr., Kankakee, IL 60901

sndschrader@yahoo.com

Gammel, Rick

847-297-5425

1256 Dennis Place, Des Plaines, IL 60018

rickgee@mail.com

Thatcher, Steven

cooldoctor1@yahoo.com

Klipp, Kasha

kklipp@yahoo.com

Wentz, Eric

630-690-7690

308 South Erie Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187

androcles9@msn.com

Mester, Russell

313-886-7348

441 Manor, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

rlmester@yahoo.com

Here is a river hazard that I experienced, and thought I would share...

On a Friday morning I poled my canoe up stream from the Nippersink canoe launch on route. 12. The Nippersink runs through a couple of dairy farms and it is not uncommon to paddle through a herd of cows. After turning the canoe around back towards the car, I notice a bull (complete with nose ring) trotting down the river bank, towards me. The faster I paddled the faster the bull would trot. The bull came into the river. As he was sniffing the bow I jumped out of the canoe. He started to hoof the ground and snort at me. With my paddle and pole overhead I tried to make myself as big as possible. While keeping the canoe between the bull and myself I kept backing up. 100 feet away was the wires that cross the river to keep the cows in. Once close the the wires I was able to dive underneath. Before I left an agitated bull behind, I notice a group of cows coming down the river to witness the potential onslaught. This is a river hazard I thought I would never be facing. **Bob Fenger**

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

Glenn Rabick 847-525-2821
jojoheads@msn.com

Please join us on the Fox River between South Elgin and St. Charles. Car shift will be 9:30 a.m. Meet at Seba Park, South Elgin. Route 31 and State Street downstream from State Street bridge. If you have any questions, please call me at home or my cell (630) 640-5375.

Sat-Tue, Oct 1-11 Michigan Rivers

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@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.

Sun, Oct 2 Pecatonica River, Wi

Lee Butler 815-232-5340
lbutler9@juno.com

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the put-in which is 1 mile west of Browntown, Wi on Hwy 11. The take-out is Brewster Landing 1 mile east of Winslow on Winslow Road. The car shuttle will run at 9:30 a.m., launching about 10 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Sat, Oct 8 Salt Creek, IL Graue Mill-Oak Brook

Glenn Jensen 708-749-6141
zymurgyteacher@yahoo.com

A suburban adventure that begins at Graue Mill and ends at Plank Road and First Avenue.

We will paddle a twisting river that meanders through the western suburbs. Deadfall is common and sometimes exiting is necessary. The put in is on the east side of York Road about a half mile north of Ogden Avenue (Rt 34) Check on-line schedule if trip is changed because of low water. The carshift is at 9:30 am.

Sat, Oct 8 Peshtigo River, WI Flatwater

Lee & Marti Vandervest 847-729-2410
lvandervest@aol.com

Colorful fall trip from downtown Peshtigo, WI about 9 miles; not quite to the mouth of the river at the bay of Green Bay. Directions: Take US RT 41 north of Green Bay 50 miles (through Oconto) to Peshtigo, WI. After crossing the bridge in Peshtigo, take the first right onto Couty B and go 3 blocks to the boat launch on the right at the Municipal yard. Carshift at 9am. E-mail only beginning 10-1. Motels on RT 41 north of town near Marinette.

Sat-Sun, Oct 8-9 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, IN on IN RT 120. Depending on water levels it will be decided which rivers will be done each day. Carshift from campground on Saturday will be at 9:30 am sharp. Everone is welcome to join us on Saturday evening for Amish dinner in Shipshewana, IN. Directions: Take I80/I90 east to IN13. Go south on IN13 to IN120. Go

Trip Announcements

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east on IN120 for 9 1/4 miles to 450 West. Go north on 450 1/4 mile, over the bridge and left turn into the campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to trip.

Sat-Mon, Oct 8-10 Current River, MO 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 an easy, safe trip with just a few riffles. We will base camp Fri., Sat., & Sun. 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. Group size and camping spaces are limited. Please email or call the trip leaders for more detailed information.

Sun, Oct 9 Rock River, IL

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com
Contact Trip Leader for details.

Wed, Oct 12 Pecatonica River, WI

Lee Butler 815-232-5340
lbutler9@juno.com

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the put-in which is 1 mile west of Browntown, WI on Hwy 11. The take-out is Brewster Landing 1 mile east of Winslow on Winslow Road. The car shuttle will run at 9:30 a.m., launching about 10 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Sat-Sun, Oct 15-16 St Francis River, MO Intermediate Whitewater

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel 708-386-1371
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net
Bob Tucker

A chance to paddle a good whitewater river in October without worry about cold temperatures (at least usually - we paddled this last year in Nov at 70 degrees). Nice drops, as canyon, and chances to play. Wet/dry suits, helmet required. Call leaders for directions, put in times, etc.

Sun, Oct 16 I & M Canal, IL

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 McKinley Park Road sign on your left. Turn left and continue past the homes to the park. Continue to the lower park area. No carshift, put-in at 9:30 a. m.

Trip Announcements

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Mon, Oct 17 Des Plaines River, IL Libertyville-Lincolnshire Moonlight

Andy Cocallas 847-680-5219
acocallas@sbcglobal.net
Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com

Enjoy the beaver, owls, racoons and coyotes as they dance their music under a Full Moon.

Sat, Oct 22 Mecan River, WI

Al Donaldson 319 277-3194
815-654-3195
alandonaldson@sprintmail.com

Contact Trip Leader for details.

Sun-Sun, Oct 22-23 Kankakee River, IN Jasper-Pulaski

Fran Almquist 815-459-8134
franalmquist@yahoo.com
Phyllis Wells 262-598-9855
phylncllyde@yahoo.com

We will paddle the Kankee River in Northern Indiana. Sat evening we'll see the migrating Sand Hill Cranes, even though it is early, there will be quite a large number of the birds there. Camping is at Tippecanoe State Park, which is on Indiana Highway 35, approx 40 miles south of highways 80-90. Shuttle will be from Tippecanoe State Park both days.

Sun, Oct 23 Illinois River, IL

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com
Contact Trip Leader for details.

Sat, Oct 29 Turtle or Bass Creek

Al Donaldson 319 277-3194
815-654-3195
alandonaldson@sprintmail.com
Contact Trip Leader for details.

Sat-Sun, Oct 29-30

Elkhart River-Chain O' Lanes State Park
Louis & Ruth Igyarto 847-587-7462

This year we will alternate from Wisconsin and head to Indiana for our annual 'Dells' trip. We will be paddling the Elkhart River and/or the Chain O'Lakes State park. Water levels and weather conditions will dictate which we do and when. Carshift will be at 9:00 a.m. from the campground in Chain O'Lakes State Park. Special note: there will not be an organized dinner for Saturday night, so come prepared to do whatever you desire. Directions: From Chicago; take the Indiana Tollway—I-80/I-90 east to IN RT 13 (east of Elkhart & Goshen, IN). Take IN RT 13 south to US RT 6. Drive east on US RT 6 to IN RT 9, turn right (south) onto IN RT 9 and proceed through the town of Albion about 3 miles until you see the sign for Chain O'Lakes State Park. Turn left (east) and the park gate will be about another mile down the road.

Sat, Nov 1 St Francis River, MO Whitewater-Pick up trip if weather permits

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel 708-386-1371
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net
Contact Trip Leader for details.

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, Nov 5-6 Sugar River, WI

**Al Donaldson 319 277-3194
815-654-3195
alandonaldson@sprintmail.com**

Contact Trip Leader for details.

Sun, Nov 6 Pecatonica River, Wi

**Lee Butler 815-232-5340
lbutler9@juno.com**

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the put-in which is 1 mile west of Browntown, Wi on Hwy 11. The take-out is Brewster Landing 1 mile east of Winslow on Winslow Road. The car shuttle will run at 9:30 a.m., launching about 10 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Wed, Nov 9 Pecatonica River, Wi

**Lee Butler 815-232-5340
lbutler9@juno.com**

We will meet at 9 a.m. at the put-in which is 1 mile west of Browntown, Wi on Hwy 11. The take-out is Brewster Landing 1 mile east of

Winslow on Winslow Road. The car shuttle will run at 9:30 a.m., launching about 10 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Wed, Nov 16 Des Plaines River, IL

Moonlight

**Andy Cocallas 847-680-5219
acocallas@sbcglobal.net
Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com**

Owls, beaver, crisp nights with a Full Moon overhead. What better way to send your canoe to the shed for the winter (unless you are like me and never let your boat build dust) than a evening paddle through Lake County forest preserve. E-mail leader for exact time and location.

**Mon-Mon, Nov 28-Dec 5
Florida Panhandle Rivers**

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

Please let me know you are interested by Nov. 12. J.

Trip Reports

June 6 Des Plaines River, IL

Nine paddlers enjoyed a clear, warm night on the river. Besides the lack of water which led us to maneuver around two dams, it was a very peaceful night. The group was fun and upbeat even though it was very dark at times from the lack of a moon. Some Beavers slapping their tails at us and an occasional Herring flying overhead. **Andy Cocallas**

June 12 Des Plaines River, IL

A pair of Sandhill cranes were walking around the marsh just south of the put-in; 5-6 great blue herons; tree swallows, barn swallows, killdeer, least sandpipers, green heron, common grackles, red-winged blackbirds, and a small mink or muskrat; lunch stop at Gurnee Woods Pond, where several people were fishing. We spent much of the time picking up trash and clearing safe passageways through

Trip Reports

fallen trees. There are still 3 logjams in this section of river, which are far too large for us to clear; watch for poison ivy on the portages. The Forest Preserve District will be notified of the exact locations of these logjams, including GPS coordinates. **Paul Klonowski**

June 18

Salt Creek, IL

Our trip began with a workshop on stream monitoring that lasted for approx. one hour. After a brief introduction we all put on boots, grabbed a d-frame net, and head out to the riffle zones below the dam to gather samples of benthic macro invertebrates. We then identified out "catch" and filled in our recording sheets. We came up with a high "fair" to low "good" water quality rating for Salt Creek. Surprisingly, very few "poor" rating macro invertebrates were found. After a short car shift we hit the water - six kayaks and five canoes at approx. 11 am.

The water level was extremely low with lots of scraping, dragging, portaging, and slow going. Our "short" trip that should have taken about two and a half hours ended up taking up four and a half! Three canoes and one kayak tipped over to add to the experience (No, it wasn't me, but I came darned close one time!) Over all, most of the eight members and six guests had a very enjoyable time. Although traffic could be heard most of the time, the river itself traveled through forest preserves the entire way making you feel you were way out in the country.

The long carry from the take out to our cars was made much easier by a group of young guys who took pity on all of us and helped tote the boats from the river and helped get them all on our cars. **Melinda Tury**

June 18-19

Baraboo River, WI

When we arrived at the put-in on Saturday, we were greeted by the raucous cry of two sand hill cranes. The cranes flew off pteradactyl-like, but we took it as a good omen for the trip. We weren't disappointed.

Saturday's section, North Freedom to Haskins Park, was a very pleasant trip down a winding, rural river. Much of it was under the canopy, Some of it so much so that it was as if we were paddling through an arboreal tunnel. Wildlife sightings included herons, hawks, various other birds that I couldn't identify, muskrats, a close encounter with two beavers and a dairy herd, which watched us go by with keen, if slow witted interest. Lunch was at a particularly pleasant park, served by a floating dock. Afternoon gave way to a wider river and a set of mild riffles, which some of us ran and others played in. Shortly after the riffles, we arrived at Haskins Park.

On Sunday we launched from Haskins Park. Almost immediately we encountered several sets of riffles. Again, we played in them for a little while, then moved on to the next set and played some more. After a while, the riffles gave way to a peaceful, gentle river that flowed out of downtown Baraboo, past Circus World Museum and back into the country. Sunday was a short day, and we were all on the road by 1:00.

All in all, the river offered a variety of scenery and conditions - all of them good. The put-ins and take-outs were all clean and very convenient, and the shade kept us cool. The riffles made things interesting - they are easily navigated by anyone who can keep his boat pointed down-river.

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A special note about the lunch stop on Saturday: you should have at least one 20 ft. painter to tie up to the floating dock (20 ft because your boat may be in the second row at a very small dock). If you don't, you will have to take your boat out and carry it up some stairs to the park. This river should be added to your list. **Steve LaPorte**

June 25 Hennepin Feeder Canal, IL

Trip was canceled due to lack of interest.
Jerry Kolar

June 25 Kishwaukee River, IL

River was flowing at 150 CFS (mean flow for this date: 550 CFS). This low flow caused an otherwise avoidable strainer at 4.5 miles (between Perryville and Mulford bridges) to become quite tempting—and hazardous. Some bottom scraping and boat dragging was required. Eagles seen on earlier trips did not show up, unfortunately. **Al Donaldson**

June 26 DuPage River, IL

Although the DuPage was low in the midst on this historical drought, we paddled the entire trip with few scrapes. Only once was it necessary to get out. The ninety degree weather was tolerable until the last two miles when we paddled in an oven; lunch was ideal. Most paddlers brought chairs and the folding picnic table proved to be a great addition. Some did want to leave; but as the train passed through, it prompted us to start the next part of the trip! Many paddlers enjoyed going through the DuPage's wild meanders south of Shepley Road. Special thanks to Ken Cole for sweeping and assisting new paddlers.
Glenn Jensen

June 27 Sugar River, WI

At a river flow of 350 cfs at the Brodhead gage, the level was low but not problematic. At a flow of less than this (200 cfs?) some of the obstacles would become quite stressful for some paddlers, and would not be recommended for beginners or those of limited mobility. **Al Donaldson**

July 2 Illinois River Impoundment, IL

New impoundment canceled trip due to inadequate parking. **Jerry Kolar**

July 2 Sugar River, WI

The Sugar River was bittersweet because of a myriad of strainers and deadfall that forced us to zigzag from bank to bank. The low water level added to the trip's difficulty. Occasionally we had to get out and pull our crafts over sandbars. Ideal weather conditions made this a splendid day. Few birds were sighted but many fish could be seen in the clear water. A sandbar midway through the trip made a good lunch stop. The eight kayaks and one canoe on this trip might portend the future of PSC(&K). **Glenn Jensen**

July 3 Sugar River, WI

Nice water, nice day. Saw hawk, great blue heron, and woodchuck. Nice lunch stop at sandbar on river left about 4 miles into the 7-mile trip. There was one low spot but no strainers that currently require portaging on this stretch as they do upstream. USGS gage at Brodhead WI today was at 220 cfs, 0.67' height. **George Stenitzer**

Trip Reports

July 9-10

Mecan River, WI

We once again had a great group of people on this trip. The weather was good and there was just enough water to get through. The downfalls made us use our maneuvering skills and kept us on our toes. **John & Marilyn Ziegler**

July 16-17

Upper Iowa River, IA

The good news is that the Upper Iowa is a beautiful river. If you like the bluffs and pallsades on the Kickapoo, you will love them on the Upper Iowa. If you like the clear, cool spring water on the Mecan, it's better on the Upper Iowa. If you like easy access, ample parking, a good current and magnificent scenery, the Upper Iowa is for you.

The bad news is that everybody within a radius of three hundred miles knows it too, and there are plenty of liveries supplying them with boats.

Seriously, the Upper Iowa is a real gem, but on a summer weekend, it will be choked with testosterone charged twenty somethings, all drinking beer, shouting at each other and playing boom boxes. The only wildlife sightings you are likely to see are homo intoxis and the closely related buffoonus drunkus.

We agreed that we would like to go back again, but off season. Due to the long drive (six hours from Chicago's west suburbs) we think it would be good to do it on a three day weekend either before Memorial Day or after Labor Day.

Don't let this turn you off - the Upper Iowa is one of the prettiest rivers I can remember. You just shouldn't do it on a summer weekend.
Steve LaPorte

Wisconsin River Revisited July 23-24, 2005

It gives me no pleasure to say this, but Sherri Johnson is a negligent trip leader. Oh, she did okay with route planning, organizing a communal dinner, arranging for lead and sweep boats, cautioning us about wearing PFDs or dropoffs and that sort of thing but sorely let us down on a really crucial matter - she forgot the little folding paper parasols for the evening's libation.

We had 15 paddlers and 8 boats for the weekend with Mary and I as the only MCC members: David and Mary Stjern, Sherri Johnson, Erik, Rudi, Marti and Jane Sprenne, Randy Hermanson, Paul and John Shafran, Claude Diez, and Tom, Kathy, Kathleen and Deanna Miceli. Thunder and rain accompanied the car shift but ended as we began paddling and the overcast prevented the high temperatures which were forecast. The river was low and while we occasionally had to push off a sandspit, there was no walking. We spent the night on a huge sandbar in the Avoca State Wildlife Area where Claude ran outback tours to a lake where antelope and impalas grazed peacefully with spitting clams and pterodactyls. Really. The communal dinner included Italian beef sandwiches, Polish sausage, barbecued chicken, Caesar salad, magnificent appetizers and various desserts.

Sunday was glorious and after breakfast and a swim we headed off to Muscoda in the face of an unrelenting headwind which caused whitecaps of sufficient height that the heavily leaden canoes shipped a little water. The Micelis showed eminent good sense by pulling out at Gotham while the certifiable eleven continued on. All boats were off the river by 1:30. Wildlife sightings included an immature bald eagle, deer, Canada geese and numerous

Trip Reports

sandhill cranes. Musical accompaniment was by Randy on his Indian love flute and a pack of coyotes who responded during the early morning hours. The trip could best be summed up by four year old Rudi and Marti Sprenne who agreed that it was just "the bestest weekend ever." **David Stjern**

July 23-24

Baraboo River

This trip was an unusual one, but nobody complained. The weather forecast for the weekend was high 90's both days. The river level was low and slow (200 cfs). Despite that, everyone was up for a weekend of paddling.

Saturday, we launched from North Freedom. We were barely out of sight of the put-in when it began to rain. It wasn't a serious rain (yet), but it continued intermittently all morning and into the afternoon. (Note to self: Even if there is no rain forecasted, put a small tarp in the dump bag.) At about 2:00, it all broke loose. The sky turned black as slate and it started to rain hard enough to rate a mention in the Bible. When the lightning got too close for comfort, we got off the river and took shelter in a farmer's tool shed. After about fifteen minutes, we got back on the river, none the worse for the experience, and finished the trip at Haskins Park without incident. AS for the upper 90's, the rain kept it in the upper 70's.

On Sunday, we launched from Haskins Park and paddled down to Luebke Landing, with a stop for ice cream at the Boo restaurant. The river was up a little due to the rain. The first Mile or so was pleasant class I riffles. The riffles soon gave way to a gentle, steady and that carried us back into a meandering, rural section of river. There were enough deadfalls to make it interesting, but not enough to be a problem.

Wildlife sightings were rare due to the weather, but they included a bald eagle, several herons, some kingfishers and cliff swallows and the ever-present dairy herd. A good time was had by all. **Steve LaPorte**

July 27

DuPage River

This was a refresher trip for those who took Moving Water I and wanted to practice the skills they learned.

The river was very low and slow, so teachable eddies were few and far between. As expected, however, we found some by the "S turn" and by the railroad bridge, and ferrying opportunities could be found along the way. Although this was not training, many questions were asked and answered, demonstrations were given, suggestions were offered and everyone agreed that the trip had been both productive and enjoyable. The unexpected appearance of Steve Shapiro was a bonus. **Steve LaPorte**

July 30

Sugar River, WI

It was a wonderful trip down the river with beautiful weather - mid 80's, a light wind, and sunny skies. Lots of turtles, green and great blue herons, kingfishers, hawks, vultures, and fish jumping. Mid afternoon had everyone swimming at a sand bar rest stop where we were joined by a group of canoeist partying. One of their dogs decided he would rather go home with us and had to be bodily removed from Ana's canoe! We even had a rather large otter swimming with us that then got into a yellow kayak and paddled the rest of the way down the river! Imagine that! We all arrived at the take out pleasantly tired after a beautiful day, loaded up and went on home. **Melinda Tury**

2005 PSC Fall Dinner

and

Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 12, 2005

The Country Inn Restaurant of Lamb's Farm

Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois

5:30 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour, 6:15 PM Dinner

Directions: Lamb's Farm is located at the intersection of I-94 and Rt 176. Exiting from the northbound I-94 will take you directly into the entrance. The Country Inn Restaurant is the first building on the left, parking is on the right.

Join us for an evening of celebrating the sport of paddling! **Buffet dinner** will include entrees of roast beef and baked chicken, soup, salad, sides of rice pilaf, twice baked potato, green beans almondine, beverages and desserts. **Cash bar.**

You Can Do This Too!

Who, me? On a Canadian wilderness trip? Well, sure. A number of our PSC members did just that this past summer. We will hear about **Mark and Merri Morral's** recent trip on the **Manigotagan River in Manitoba**, and **Dan Benthall** and friends will share their paddling and camping experiences in the **Woodland Caribou Provincial Park** north of Quetico. Where they traveled, how they planned it, what they found when they got there, and **how you can do it too.**

Beat the cost of gas! Carpool/rideshare to the dinner. Register your location and contact info below and we will post it in a special place with other carpoolers on the website.

Prairie State Canoeists 2005 Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner Reservation Form

(Save postage - send in your 2006 dues in the same envelope with this form.)

Deadline: November 1, 2005

Name _____	Phone _____
No. of Adults, \$20.00 each	_____ \$ _____
No. Persons (15 Years and Younger) \$10.00 each	_____ \$ _____
Total \$ for Dinner	_____ \$ _____

Make Check to:

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

Yes, include my name and location on the website to carpool to the dinner.

City _____ Phone or email _____

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)

Prairie State Canoeists

c/o Ken Cole
224 Lafayette Dr
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

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Send Address corrections to:

Treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org
or Ken Cole
224 Lafayette Dr
Bolingbrook, IL 60440