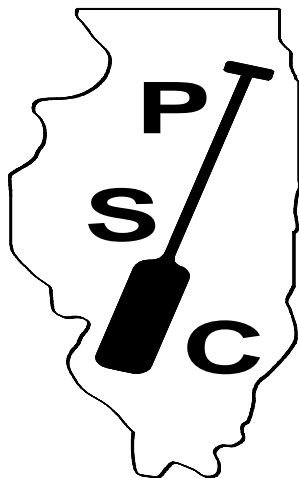


PSC Paddler



Newsletter of the

Prairie State Canoeists

Volume 38 #1

December 2005 - January 2006

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From the Outgoing Chair:

Kish, Nip, Des Plaines, Mazon, DuPage - familiar names and favorite rivers for our PSC paddlers, but this year the drought and low water conditions sent us farther afield to seek our paddling fun. Nevertheless, more than 60 trip leaders lead some 130 trips this season. Our paddlers enjoyed the clean air, the quietude, and the unfolding of nature's beauty as we floated around the next bend in the river. Life doesn't get any better.

Our near-record paddling activities were enhanced by some wonderful social events, a superb mid-summer picnic, the trip leaders' workshop, expanded training sessions, and an upgraded and steadily improving website. Behind the scenes, the officers and directors waded through years of old meeting minutes, resolutions and action notes to pull together a coherent system of managing these club activities. Every director and officer took on tasks and responsibilities and were aided and supported by an army of talented volunteers. We all owe these volunteers a great big THANK YOU. It has certainly been my pleasure to have served with all of these awesome people.

The Board of Directors recently confirmed its commitment to continue and improve all of these activities next season, and to grow the club in its service to its members. Planning is now under way for 2006. I have pledged my efforts as a volunteer. If you have time, talents, and ideas for club activities, get in touch with your leaders ASAP and get involved.

Now, let's get out there and paddle!

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

From the Incoming Chair:

We are planning to start the year off in the normal way by having the **Trip Leader's Meeting and Workshop**. This will give us a good base for the trip schedule. A couple of volunteers will then try to find members to lead trips in order to fill the gaps in the schedule.

Some dates to keep in mind for 2006 are:

Jan. 14th—Trip Leaders Meeting

March 4th—Spring Banquet

March 10-12—Canoecopia — We will need volunteers to man the booth!

Nov. 14th—Fall Dinner

We also have tentatively set **Saturday, July 29th** for the PSC picnic pending the reservation of a site. Linda Gebhard has agreed to head up the organization of the picnic, but will need help from many members.

We will continue to hold periodic social gatherings, if there is a volunteer to coordinate them.

As you can see from the few events listed above, **your club needs your help** to organize and make these things happen.

Look for information in the newsletter and on the web site for **training trips, pool sessions, and ACA certification classes**.

John

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: Yakima Railrider 1 towers; set of 4 \$20. Yakima DoubleCross towers; set of 4 \$40. No crossbars. Center flotation (red) used twice; orig \$65, sell \$35. Joann Benedetto 847 697 3770

For Sale: FOLBOT Aleut 12' folding kayak weighs only 40 lbs. Single seater kayak Includes Werner Camano paddle and expedition package (rudder, spray skirt, deck, wilderness repair kit, deck lines, extra padding on frame.) Stable, excellent tracking and fast, simple set-up time (approx. 15 min). Packs up into 2 packs. Great for fishing, birding, photography and perfect for anyone with storage problems. Excellent condition: \$1,000 Marie/Ken Bohnen 847.991.1618 or knunut.att.net

Board Actions: Standing Resolutions and Recent Changes in Bylaws

Standing Resolutions on Operating Procedures

Over the past 35 years the Board of Directors passed a number of actions affecting the members of PSC. At its meeting on October 23, 2005 the Board summarized and updated those resolutions that have an ongoing, contemporary application. Some old resolutions were obsolete or no longer relevant, and these were retired. The active resolutions have been summarized and will be appended to the bylaws and printed in the 2006 PSC Membership Directory.

Bylaw Changes

At the same meeting, the Board passed a number of bylaw changes with the intent of making the bylaws consistent with the current needs and operations of the club. The updated bylaws will be printed in the directory.

The working version or the final version of these bylaws and resolutions are available electronically or in hard copy. Any member may request these materials by contacting Bill Kessler, 708.547.5314, kslr@aol.com.

Future Board Actions

In the near future, minutes of the board meetings will be available on the PSC website, and action points from the meetings will be published in the newsletter.

Welcome New Members (since Sept 12, 2005)

Anderson, David & Susan O'Shields

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dasos1@comcast.net

Freier, Bruce & Dianne

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4535 W Prairie Rd, Freeport, IL 61032

bfreier1@juno.com

Johnson, Russell

Kahling, Joel

847-973-1868

585 Windsor Dr, Fox Lake, IL 60020

joelbluehorse@aol.com

Watts, David & Regina

630-552-1172

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wattsdr@earthlink.net

2006 Training Trips

Intro to Paddling	Sat. April 1
Moving Water I	Sat, April 22
Moving Water 2	Sat, May 13
Whitewater	Mon-Tue, May 22 & 23
Intro to Paddling	Sat, July 8
Moving Water 1	Sat, Sept 9

The **PSC Fall Dinner and Annual Business Meeting** was well held Saturday, November 12, at The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm in Libertyville, IL.

Many thanks to **Mark & Merri Morrall** who entertained us with the adventure they took on the **The Manigotagan River in Manitoba**.

Thanks also go to **Dan Benthall** who shared his experiences about visiting **Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario**.

The **Annual Awards** were handed out in the **Summary of PSC Paddling 2005** (see pages 8-9) and **Elections** were held.

<i>Newly Elected Officers and Directors</i>	
Co-Chair	Joan Taylor
Secretary	Melinda Tury
Directors	Glenn Jensen
	Frances Peshkin
	Rebecca Sells
	Jane Sprenne
	Bernie Terrell

<i>Officers and Directors with active terms</i>	
Chair	John Ziegler
Directors	Mark Morrall
	Al Donaldson
	Steve LaPorte

<i>Appointed by the PSC Board</i>	
<small>(To finish the unexpired terms left vacant by resignation or elections)</small>	
Treasurer George Stenitzer	Director Susan Halvorsen

Reminder.....**PSC DUES ARE DUE January 1**

Prairie State Canoeists operates on a calendar year which means that everyone's dues should be **paid by January 1, 2006** regardless of when you joined.

By paying your dues by January 1, you can actually save the club the expense and trouble of reminding you, and it will ensure that your name will appear in the directory and that you will not miss any issues of the newsletter.

If you have a question about the status of your membership, contact the treasurer, George Stenitzer, preferably by email @ treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org.

Use the membership renewal in this newsletter.

Trip Leaders' Meeting and Workshop

Saturday, January 14, 2006

1:00 PM

**Izaak Walton Home
899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL**

The **Annual Trip Leaders' Meeting** is your opportunity to meet other trip leaders and help develop the Master Trip Schedule for the 2006 season. Beverages and snacks will be provided. If you cannot attend, you may send your trip information - name of river and date only - in advance to: John Ziegler, canucamp@sbcglobal.net or post them on the web site so they get included in the master list.

The **Trip Leaders' Workshop** will be moderated by Bill Kessler with presenters Joan Taylor, Tom Lindblade, Mark Morrall and Steve LaPorte. They will review the club rules and protocols for leading trips and will share their experiences from years and miles of leading hundreds of happy paddlers on canoe trips. This workshop will be followed up by a **Trip Leaders' Orientation Trip** in April. It is not necessary for you to attend these sessions in order to become a trip leader, but the sessions will be helpful.

Directions to the Izaak Walton Home, 899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL. (The Ike House is situated on Poplar Creek where Jay Street ends.)

From I-90: take Route 25 south for about three miles and turn left onto Jay Street.

From Route 20: go north on Route 25 for three blocks (CAUTION: follow the RT 25 signs carefully. turn right onto Jay Street.

There is parking for about 30 cars on the property, with overflow parking on the cross streets (no parking allowed on Jay Street). See map on next page

NOTE: PSC Board meeting will begin at 11:00am. All members are welcome to attend.

Map of Area of Izaak Walton Home, 899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL



Be A Leader!

Trip leaders are the life-blood of Prairie State Canoeists. The trips you lead are the main activity of the club and the reason most of us are members. If you are a veteran trip leader, I hope you will schedule even more trips for 2006. If you have never lead a trip but would like to, here are some tips to get started:

1. Pick a river that you have canoed before, set a date, send the announcement to the newsletter editor before the deadline;
2. If you are not confident about trip leading yet, call an experienced leader and volunteer to co-lead a trip;
3. Attend the Trip Leaders' workshop on Saturday, January 14 at the Izaak Walton Home in Elgin (see directions) and the orientation trip in April.

Summary of PSC Paddling 2005

We had **430 members** paddle on **94 trips** (128 were scheduled but 34 were canceled), for a total of **19,000 river miles** paddled; **6 trips** were **clean-ups**. We had **69 different trip leaders** (27 were **new leaders**). There were **22 new River Rats** and **10 instructors**. \

This year we had a tie for **Paddler of the Year**. **Al Donaldson** and **Joan Taylor** each earned **740 points!** (They were 'bow to bow' all summer!).

Below is the summary report as shown on the PSC website showing the total points for the **58 members** who earned **100 points or more**. New River Rats, Leaders, Clean-Up participants and Instructors are listed on page 9.

Paddler of the Year!

A tie with 740 Points

Al Donaldson & Joan Taylor

560 Points	230 Points	130 Points
Tom Lindblade	Gail Jacobs	Lee Butler
520 Points	John Ziegler	Ed Nelson
Carol Klug	220 Points	Barbara Nyden
440 Points	Merri Morrall	120 Points
Sherri Johnson	Marilyn Ziegler	Jerry Emerson
370 Points	200 Points	Evelyn Tennyson
Ken Cole	Bill Barclay	Larry Tennyson
Melinda Tury	Dan Benthall	Janice Wellborn
360 Points	Jim Deck	110 Points
Steve LaPorte	190 Points	Donna Fontana
Sheila Small	Ana Donaldson	Tracy Hunt
300 Points	Ray Ziemer	Peggy Jacobs
Rebecca Sells	180 Points	Steve Kirchen
290 Points	Paul Clifford	Glenn Rabick
Mark Morrall	Peg Strobel	Tom Richardson
280 Points	160 Points	John Shafran
Linda Gebhard	Alice Deck	100 Points
260 Points	Louis Igyarto	Doug Bosco
George	Ruth Igyarto	David Boyle
Stenitzer	Carl Peetoom	Mike Caplan
250 Points	150 Points	Larry Forgala
Fran Almquist	Glenn Jensen	Susan Halvorsen
Steve Shapiro	Rosetta Kessler	Bill O'Malley
240 Points	140 Points	Carole Snowdon
Bill Kessler	Andy Cocallas	Karen Wedde
	Tyler Igyarto	
	Doug Spitzer	

Members who led trips in 2005

Fran Almquist	Bob Fenger	Steve LaPorte	Sheila Small
Bill Barclay	Charlie Fenger*	Tom Linblade	Carole Snowdon
Dan Benthall	Larry Forgala	Mark Morrall	Doug Spitzer*
Seaby Bess	Bill Handler	Merri Morrall	George Stenitzer
Lee Butler	Jo Heckenbach	Sigrid Pilgrim	Dave Stjern
Mike Caplan	Terry Heckenbach	John Puskar	Mary Stjern
Paul Clifford	Tracy Hunt	Mary Puskar	Peg Strobel
Andy Cocallas	Louis Igyarto	Dawn Rabick	Joan Taylor
Ken Cole	Ruth Igyarto	Glenn Rabick	Evelyn Tennyson
Christina Collins	Tyler Igyarto*	Tom Richardson	Larry Tennyson
Michael Collins	Glenn Jensen	Rick Rothrock	Melinda Tury
Alice Deck	Sherry Johnson	Becky Sells	Lee Vandervest
Jim Deck	Bill Kessler	Steve Shapiro	Marti Vandervest
Al Donaldson	Rosetta Kessler	Barb Shaw	Karen Wedde
Ana Donaldson	Paul Klonowski	John Shaw	Phyllis Wells
Gerald Emerson	Carol Klug	Mark Skeels	John Ziegler
Austin Fenger*	Jerry Kolar	Pam Skeels	Marilyn Ziegler
			Ray Ziemer

* Junior Leader

New River Rats**

Doug Bosco	Jim Deck	Barbara Nyden	Doug Spitzer
David Boyle	Ana Donaldson	Bill O'Malley	George Stenitzer
Lee Butler	Linda Gebhard	Carl Peetoom	Melinda Tury
Mike Caplan	Susan Halvorsen	Tom Richardson	Karen Wedde
Andy Cocallas	Gail Jacobs	Becky Sells	
Alice Deck	Peggy Jacobs	Sheila Small	

** First time earning 100 points or more

Clean Up Participants

Ben Auliff	Gail Jacobs	Phil Paul	George Steinitzer
Jodie Auliff	Ellen Johnson	Chris Schulman	Melinda Tury***
Al Donaldson***	Kathi Landow	Peter Schulman	Chris Vansicvle
Ana Donaldson***	Mark Morrall	Mark Skeels***	John Wilhelmi
Randy Hermanson	Merri Morrall	Pam Skeels***	Ray Ziemer***

*** Leader

Instructors

Sandon Bate	Jacki Johnson	Tom Linblade	Tom Richardson
Chuck Bobula	Sherry Johnson	Mark Morrall	
Alan Close	Bob Kane	Sig Pilgrim	

To all Illinois Paddling Clubs, and others interested in a potential whitewater park in Rockford...

On Nov. 4, an article was published in the **Rockford Star** about the possibility of building a whitewater park in downtown Rockford, IL: <http://www.rrstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051104/BUSINESS02/111040014>

On Nov. 13, the same newspaper had an editorial on the same topic: <http://www.rrstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051113/OPINION03/111130009>

This week, an appeal was made by the **Illinois Paddling Council** to solicit support from area paddlers via a **letter writing campaign** to local officials. The IPC has been in contact with the **River District Association of Rockford** (<http://www.riverdistrict.com/about.htm>) whose mission is to re-develop the River District neighborhood of Rockford.

If you would like to take part in the campaign, remain informed on future developments and/or would like to assist as may be required, please contact **Sigrid Pilgrim**: sigpilgr@comcast.net; 847-328-0145.

Thank you for any support you can give to this exciting opportunity to increase whitewater paddling education, instruction, recreation and competition in our area!

Trip Reports

July 27-August

Michigan Rivers

Two Floridians, three folks from Michigan, two from southern Illinois and five from the Chicago area participated in the recent Michigan adventures. We paddled on the Sturgeon, Pigeon, Jordan, Betsie, Pine and Pere Marquette Rivers. Sightings included mink, muskrats, turtles including a snapping turtle, frogs, deer, a ground hog, a water snake, a fox snake, rabbits, a wolf spider, crawdaddies, red squirrels, a blue tailed lizard, great blue herons, an oven bird, cedar wax wings, indigo buntings, eagles, mergansers, wild turkeys, orioles, American red starts, cardinals, a flock of red winged blackbirds, a big owl, blue winded teals, Canadian and strange looking unidentifiable geese, kingfishers, a sand piper, a red throated grosbeak, a yellow shafted flicker, hairy and red bellied

woodpeckers, gold finches, robins, a gray cat bird, eastern king bird, barn and cliff swallows, red shoulder hawk, vultures, ruby throated humming bird, and dragon and damsel flies. What we didn't see and didn't miss were mosquitoes, flies and no see-ums.

Among our findings were 4 paddles and 2 half paddles, 1 jacked, 2 hats, 3 shirts, a stash of rum ad coke, about 16 full beers and 314 refundable cans and bottles (including ones found in our campground). Many thanks to George and Cheryl for rescuing one of the leaders and to Bill O'Malley for his car shuttling, paddling lessons and music. And thanks to all who helped out as needed to make the trip a success. And yes, we had water enough on all of the rivers. **Joan Taylor and Carol Klug**

Trip Reports

July 31 Kishwaukee River, IL

Normally a trip that has many paddlers, but some feared the Kish was too low and stayed home. We did not have many problems and if the paddler chose the correct channel, scraping seldom happened. Some NIU students provided entertainment and beer by occasionally capsizing and releasing the contents of their coolers into the river. Although we tried to warn these neophytes about dangerous strainers, they bragged they could manage with superior paddling "skills" but never displayed them when it was time to do so. We took advantage of their sudden hospitality especially during lunch. Our trip ended under a roasting sun. Thank you to our carshiffters.
Glenn Jensen

Aug 6 Badfish Creek/Yahara River, WI

Sunflowers in bloom in a farmer's field. Goldfinches, green heron, giant blue heron, sandhill cranes and a bald eagle (which I've now sighted twice) near the confluence of the Badfish and the Yahara. **George Stenitzer**

Aug 7 Kishwaukee River, IL

After months of drought, the Kish was too low to paddle on the Wednesday before this trip, but two heavy storms on Thursday and Friday dumped enough water to make this a fine river trip. Nine of the 23 paddlers were new members making their first trip with PSC. Welcome to Bob McCurdy, Lee Butler, Morris Applebaum, Terry and Jennifer Eisenbraun, Ted Sanders, Barry Hendrix, Ralph Tucker, Christian Rigg. The Kish was in fine form, with a few strainers and drops requiring maneuvering. We were accompanied by a family of Osprey and a flock of green herons, and

someone spied a bald eagle. The usual great blues, some large turtles, fishermen, sunbathers and tubers kept us company. **Bill Kessler**

Aug 13 Pecatonica River

There were only 6 people and 6 boats on this trip. The weather was threatening and took real courage to travel that far to paddle for 2 hours. Gas prices, regular, were very high, \$2.60 in Freeport and \$2.80 in Chicago area. Prior to the paddle waiting for the crowd to show up, I walked all over Brewster Landing picking up (a few) plastic bottles, trash, and alum cans. The West McConnell Road Bridge looked to be clean of liter. Brewster Landing is the only usable cement public boat ramp in Stephenson County.

We launched at 1:00pm. One-fourth mile downstream was our first challenge. The river turned sharply right and fast. The outside curve was shallow. You had to stay on the inside of the curve. Everyone made it thru. From there on, it was smooth paddling. There were a few ripples at the old Fisher Mill Dam about 6 miles downstream. The water depth at the ripples was 18 inches, measured with my paddle. Al and Joe retrieved a large plastic barrel from the brush and sent it free to float downstream. Al and Lee rescued a tire with rim from a snag and sent it free to float downstream. Lee said that this tire was sent free south of Browntown on the June 27 paddle! We talked, shared stories and had a good time. The river banks are mostly mud and steep. The river is 50 to 100 feet wide and 3 to 5+ feet deep. Paddling is great exercise. It's a good thing. For more info, see 'trip 1' (7 miles) at www.paddlethepec.com Browntown, WI to Brewster Landing, via the Pecatonica River, is 12 miles. **Lee Butler**

Trip Reports

Aug 27

Sugar River, WI

The first 11 miles of the trip (Brodhead to Avon), in spite of quite low water (161 cfs and .47 gage height at the Brodhead gage) was clear of stream-blocking deadfall, and plenty of depth was present. This is a relatively remote section, with good wildlife viewing and relatively little "civilization."

The final 4 miles (Avon to Nelson Road), through the "Avon Bottoms," was definitely interesting, with plenty of huge strainers and log jams. Extremely remote river section: only one bridge (just before the takeout) and few signs of people after the first few tenths of a mile. This section is definitely not recommended for beginners. **Al Donaldson**

Sept 11

Pecatonica River, WI

A couple from Freeport stopped by Brewster Landing to watch us launch. They recently bought a used aluminum canoe. He has been pounding out the dents and would be ready for a test paddle soon. They are anxious to join one of our paddles. Not much wildlife on the trip. Jamie's LiquidLogic Kayak is only 2 weeks old. She enjoyed putting a few more miles on it. We talked a lot and shared paddling stories. My, how time flies when you're having fun. The remnants of the 2 old Fisher Dams caused a few ripples and some fast water for about 5 seconds each. Two paddlers in our group had never paddled this segment before. Even tho I have paddled this river segment a few times, it is rewarding and fun to share the trip with new paddlers.

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!

That infamous 'plastic barrel', spotted on the Aug 13 trip, was spotted again. I pulled it out

of the brush and sent adrift. If I see that barrel on Wednesday's paddle, I will tie a rope on it, drag it to the take-out and properly dispose of it. **Lee Butler**

Sept 10

Badfish Creek

Part of our group (the early bird riser group of 5) put in at 6:45 am and did the section of the creek farther upstream and met the rest of us at 9:00 am! Car shift was completed and we took off down the creek at approx. 10 am. The put in was interesting to say the least! Our boats had to be slid down a very steep bank and then carried through waist high switch grass (my ankles got cut up pretty good - boy that smarts!). One member took a tumble in a hole but was ok! The trip itself was wonderful - lots, and lots of tight turns, riffles, boulder dodging, and even some small rapids! Lunch was on a nice sand bar and some of our group went swimming and others just waded to cool off. We didn't see much wildlife but did see the great blue heron, geese, a few turtles and a small flock of sandhill cranes that took off and flew about 20 feet over our heads! One person had something very large jump off the bank into the water creating a wave with enough force to rock her boat scaring the living daylight out of her! Barb had a leopard frog that somehow ended up in her boat and took a ride with her to the end of the trip. All in all this was a fun trip that gave everyone lots of practice in boat handling while we played with the river. **Melinda Tury**

Sept 14

Pecatonica River

We intended to pick up that plastic 55 gallon barrel that we have been seeing on this river segment. On previous trips, we would spot it in the brush and set it free to float downstream. You never know. That barrel could have

Trip Reports

hazardous chemicals lurking inside! We spotted the infamous barrel a little over 5 miles downstream. It was hung up on the second dam at Fishers Mill. The barrel was pushed to continue down the river. Once we were free of the riffles, a rope was tied to the barrel and it was towed. The barrel did not tow very good. Joe followed the barrel and pushed it with his kayak. At least we had a tail wind!!

We were prepared to call the county environmental group to haul this barrel away. The length of the tow was 1.4 miles! We tried to be very careful of this potential hazardous container. We dragged it up on the cement ramp and noticed a fluid coming out near the bottom. 'River water'! After the river water ran out of the barrel, it was loaded on the kayak trailer, and returned to Freeport for proper recycling..... **Lee Butler**

Sept 17 Des Plaines River, IL

Five kayaks (where were the canoes) paddled down the Des Plaines from Gowe Park to Oak Spring Rd. The dry weather and epidemic reduced the number of birds we might normally see. The Blue Heron made its proverbial visit. We stopped for lunch at Independence Park. The group agreed that this park had the best washrooms of any trip run by PSC. The low water and strainers made for a few unusual maneuvers. Despite a handful of obstacles, we enjoyed ourselves all day. **Glenn Jensen**

Sept 18 Sugar River, WI

Sugar River gage at Brodhead was reading 158 cfs and .44 feet (extremely low, as the average flow for this date is 240 cfs) The stream had enough depth to avoid walking the boats,

but occasional bottom scraping was unavoidable. It was a good day for wildlife, with a Bald Eagle leading us partway down the river. **Al Donaldson**

Oct 2 Pecos River

One of our paddlers was a GP Doctor. One paddler came from Bloomingdale, 115 miles. Two of our canoe paddlers were 77 years old. There were 4 in that canoe, parents, daughter, and grand-daughter. The aluminum canoe hit bottom at the old Fischer Mill Dam but slid over the rocks easily. We got to view the very old stone Fischer Mill House (thru the trees, from the river). We got rained on very slightly. All paddlers launched their boats without getting wet!! All paddlers exited their boats without getting wet!! We met new paddlers and exchanged a lot of paddling stories, paddling tips, and past & future paddling trips. **Lee Butler**

Oct 8 Salt Creek of Des Plaines River, IL

Summer drought conditions threatened our trip, but recent rains brought the Salt up to an optimum level for paddling. An overcast and windy day caused cool weather but the forest blocked the gusts and made it pleasant for the one canoe, kayak and inflatable. We saw a myriad of deer, Blue Herons, owls, and hornet nests. Signs of beaver were everywhere. Many strainers tested our maneuvering skills. Most could be paddled around or through, although we had to portage one. The journey through Bemis Woods was the most cluttered part of the trip.

At Brezina Woods we stopped for lunch. We pulled our boats onto the gravel beach and were surprised to see a man wearing fatigues sleeping in a jungle tent high in the trees.

Trip Reports

Even stranger was that he guessed we were from PSC. After our meal we bided tree-man adieu and continued our paddle.

treasures of tires, shopping carts, and road signs. While paddling through Brookfield Zoo we saw many Homo Sapiens starring back at us. We reached the confluence and drew our crafts ashore. We finished off the day with a variety of homebrew libations on-tap. **Glenn Jensen**

Oct 12 Pecatonica River, IL

The weather report for this paddle was not very good; cool, cloudy, drizzle, light rain. But we decided to paddle anyway. The weather turned out perfect. Paddlers; Lee, Joe, Rod, John, Melinda, & Anna. This was Anna's 2nd paddling experience. She did very well.

During the carshift, John started the launch early and fell in the river. When I returned from the carshift, John had completed his clothing change. John is a very experienced paddler and just made a dumb mistake. I hope his digital camera survives the bath!

We sometimes paddled 2 abreast sharing conversations; sometimes, 3 abreast. And near the end of the trip, we were 6 abreast paddling down this wide river.

At the West McConnell Road Bridge take-out, John and Melinda decided to paddle 8 more miles down to the next takeout. **Lee Butler**

Oct.17 Des Plaines River

Eight members enjoyed a wonderful evening paddling under a Full Moon with no clouds and

as sunset arrived, followed by night sightings of deer, tails slapping from beaver and large flocks of Geese honking overhead. Water was sufficient and it was a great group of paddlers to enjoy a full moon on the Des Plaines River.

Andy Cocallas

Oct 22 Mekan River

We started this trip well upstream of the "usual" Dakota put in. The first four miles are even tighter than the Dakota to WI 22 section (Which, itself, is tight and twisty enough to cause a bit of directional disorientation.) Water level allowed good paddling, with no bottom scraping save for those who chose the "less than perfect" lines. Clear water, good fall colors and the normal fish and fowl were supplemented nicely by the sighting of a fine Pileated Woodpecker. Thanks to Joe Tybor for allowing us to use his dock and riverside for a late lunch stop (most of this section of the Mekan runs through private property, and places to stop and beach several boats legally are few.) **Al Donaldson**

Oct 25 Elkhorn Creek

At a gage flow (Penrose Gage) of 20 CFS, the creek does not have enough water for a club trip. There was lots of assorted wildlife, but numerous stream-spanning obstructions and gravel bars made for a rather athletic trip. Would suggest a flow rate of at least 50 CFS and some saw work in order for this to make a good club paddle. **Al Donaldson**

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.

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 George Stenitzer
1102 Westhaven Dr
Wheaton, IL 60187

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 George Stenitzer
1102 Westhaven Dr
Wheaton, IL 60187

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Send Address corrections to:

Treasurer@prairiestatecanoeists.org
or George Stenitzer
1102 Westhaven Dr
Wheaton, IL 60187