



PSC Paddler

The Newsletter of Prairie State Canoeists, A Canoe and Kayak Club Founded in 1971

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 39 No. 6 October–November 2007

Update: The Illinois Paddling Council Water TrailKeepers

Volunteers for the the Illinois Paddling Council's "Water TrailKeepers" program, described in the June-July issue of PSC Paddler, have begun clearing obstructions on smaller streams in Cook County. Tom Richardson, conservation chair of the IPC and a leading organizer of the effort, reported that the Illinois Paddling Council received a grant, sponsored jointly by the American Canoe Association and L.L. Bean, to purchase personal safety equipment (waders, chainsaw protection gear) and tools (hand winch, block & tackle, rope, saws, etc.). Team members began the project with safety training from Bill Koenig, Director of the Cook County Forest Preserve District's Volunteer Program. The training covered the use of gas powered winches and chain saws and the safe and environmentally appropriate approach to removing blockages. Long-time PSC member Dennis Paterka reports that he joined TrailKeepers after seeing the article in the PSC Paddler. He says that this concept has been

kicked around between Bill Koenig and himself for about 20 years. He notes that using power tools to remove major obstructions may appeal to only a few paddlers, but that PSC members and other paddlers can help by reporting blockages and other dangerous conditions on the rivers they paddle and by volunteering their time and talents for the work days. The remaining event will be on Saturday, October 13 on Thorn Creek and Salt Creek.

Gary Mechanic, IPC chair and co-leader of the project, adds that since this "pilot" season is co-sponsored by the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the work has centered on streams within Cook County, including the North Branch of the Chicago River, Des Plaines, Salt Creek, and the Little Calumet and its major tributary, Thorn Creek. He is developing a database of all the government contacts in areas where there is a municipality, park district, or forest preserve district that is responsible for removing blockages.

To report a stream obstruction,

volunteer, or learn more about Illinois Water TrailKeepers, go to the TrailKeepers page on the IPC website: www.illinoispadding.com. Or contact Tom Richardson at (630) 832-3523, rtomrichardson@comcast.net

Reserve Now for the PSC Fall Dinner

The 2007 PSC Fall Dinner and annual meeting is set for Saturday, November 10, at the Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm in Libertyville. This year's special guest will be noted wilderness adventurer and author Kevin Callan. Many of us know Kevin through his books and his appearances at CanoeCopia. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 PM and the buffet dinner starts at 6:15. Early reservations are recommended. If you cannot join us for the dinner, you are invited to attend the annual meeting and the presentation at 7:00 PM. Board of Directors meeting at 4:30 PM; all members invited. Reservation form for the dinner is on page 3.

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Prairie State Canoeists
c/o George Stenitzer
177 North Adams
Oswego IL 60543

From the Chair

This is my last column as PSC chair. I can only hope that each of you had as great a time paddling as I have had this year. I want to thank all who participated. Each of you enriches the trip. Thank you to the officers and board who fulfill the important function of governing the club. Appreciations to the trip leaders and may you continue to give paddlers the opportunities for new adventures. I can't say enough good things about the folks who teach paddling and safety. And finally, thank you, thank you, thank you to the behind-the-scenes folks who work on our web site, our newsletter and our picnic. You are pros, no doubt about it.

My goals for this year included promoting the Illinois Paddling Council and increasing our club membership. Each month you have been provided information by the Illinois Paddling Council

about their work. I hope many of you have joined. We are so fortunate to have this dedicated, hard-working group to do advocacy for paddlers in Illinois. If we did not have such a fine group, our club would probably need to take on this work also. So, please support the IPC with your memberships and your voice.

Regarding membership, I am happy to say that folks just keep on coming and coming back. We must be doing something right. No doubt there is more that can be done to get the word out. If you have ideas and are willing to help to implement them, please make yourself known. A participating membership makes a healthy club.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting. Please send your reservation in early so you won't be disappointed. Happy paddling.

Joan Taylor

PSC Paddler

A Canoe and Kayak Club
<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

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630-495-1565

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PSC Paddler is published six times yearly plus an annual directory. Prairie State Canoeists is a club founded in 1971 for the paddling enjoyment of its members, with its current address of record at 177 North Adams, Oswego, Illinois, 60543.

Annual dues are \$20.00, and all applicants must send a signed copy of the application form, found in this issue and on our web site, <http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>.

Address corrections:
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

Newsletter Dealines

Issue	Deadline
December—January	November 1
February—March	January 1
April—May	March 1
June—July	May 1
August—September	July 1
October—November	September 1

2007 PSC Fall Dinner And Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 2007
The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm
Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois
5:30 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour, 6:15 PM Dinner

Special Guest

Kevin Callan: The Happy Camper on the Kopka River

Noted wilderness adventurer and author Kevin Callan will be our special guest presenter. Many of us know Kevin through his books and his appearances at Canoecon. Kevin is the author of ten books, including the bestselling *A Paddler's Guide* series and, most recently, *The Happy Camper*, published by Boston Mills Press. He is the recipient of two National Magazine Awards and is a featured speaker at many of North America's largest paddling events. He lives in Peterborough, Ontario, home of the legendary Peterborough Canoes. A supply of Kevin's books will be available, and he will be happy to sign them for you following his presentation.

Join us for an evening of celebrating the sport of paddling. Buffet dinner will include entrees of roast beef and roast breast of turkey, salad, sides of baked potato, green beans almondine, beverages and ice cream sundae. Cash bar.

Directions: Lambs 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.

Note: If you cannot join us for the dinner, you are invited to attend the annual meeting, which will begin at 7:00 PM, and enjoy the presentation, which follows.

Board of Directors meeting will be held at 4:30 PM, prior to the dinner. All PSC members are invited to attend.



Prairie State Canoeists 2007 Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner Reservation Form

Deadline: November 2, 2007; seating is limited, reserve ASAP

Name _____	Phone # _____
No. of Adults, \$25.00 each	_____ \$ _____
No. Persons 15 Years and Younger, \$10.00 each	_____ \$ _____
Total \$ for Dinner	_____ \$ _____

Make Check to Prairie State Canoeists, mail c/o
George Stenitzer, 177 North Adams, Oswego, IL 60543.

(Save postage—send in your 2008 dues in the same envelope with this form. See back cover.)

Gauging It: Finding Your (Water) Level

This year may end up being one of the best in history for Midwest paddlers. The late summer rains eliminated the summer low water doldrums that we have had for the last few years. Of course, the rains also bring their own set of problems because of high water and flooding, and the fact that not all areas get the same amount of rainfall. While the Des Plaines may be in full flood, the Galena may have barely enough water to paddle.

It used to be that accurate information on river levels depended on whom you knew that lived near the river. Most of the time you made your best guess and hoped you would not have to drag your boat or abort your trip when you saw how high the river was. All of this began to change in 1970 with the establishment of the National Atmospheric and Oceanic

Administration. NOAA and the US Geologic Survey (USGS) took on the task of providing accurate environmental information to the public and established a national system of satellite river gauges, which now gives us almost real-time information about water levels anywhere in the United States.

Now whenever I am thinking about paddling, one of the first things I do is sit down at the computer and go to http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River_view_, which takes me to the National River Database page of the American Whitewater Affiliation. This page uses the NOAA/USGS gauges as its base and provides an amazing amount of additional river information. By clicking on "State gauges" and then on Illinois, I get an alphabetical list of all of the rivers with gauges in Illinois, and by clicking on

a river, I get two graphs of the river level for the past week, one in cubic feet per second (cfs) and the other in feet and inches so I can see visually what the river has been doing. I can also click on USGS page for this station and get a similar graph with the average levels for this river. The AWW page also gives me a listing of all of the whitewater rivers in the state with information about runability, put-ins, etc.

With all of this real-time information, I can make a much more informed decision about what, when, and where to paddle.

Happy Paddling,

[This column is a regular feature in the PSC Paddler. If you have a question or an experience to share, send it to Tom Lindblade.]

Paddlers' Marketplace

Canoe, 16 foot Solo Swift, two tone \$900 (\$1400 new, used four times).

Warner kayak paddle, \$100 (new \$185).

Yakima Rack with Tower, 48 inch, \$80.

Ronald Colin, Phone 708-846-8730,

PSC T-Shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available at most PSC events or can be ordered for UPS delivery by contacting Glenn Jensen, 708-749-6141,

Kayak, well equipped new boat in Kevlar. Purchased 10/06 for \$3,349.00. Smart Track rudder upgraded, \$30.00. Ritchie deck compass, installed \$130.00. This kayak new is \$3,509.00. Asking price for this practically new 49 lb Kevlar kayak is \$2,975.00 cash (certified check, Mastercard, or Visa) Please, only seriously interested parties should make inquiries. I live in Rogers Park and the boat can be tested at Touhy Ave put-in. E-mail:

Bob Danon

Yakima Rack parts, Locking Rail Rider 2, a set of 4 towers with all the pieces except locks. The towers can be used with the hardware for either the Rail Rider 1, 2, or 3. These were donated to PSC and proceeds will go to the club. An electronic version of the vehicles this set up will fit is available. Contact John Ziegler, 847-742-7316,

Trips and Events

October 1–4

Sturgeon, Jordan, Betsy Michigan

Beginner/Intermediate Base
Camping

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Bill Erickson 847-201-1904
We will be camping at Burt Lake Campground in Indian River beginning on Monday night. Be prepared for beautiful fall colors and possible cold nights, even rain. We ask that all folks paddling have good control of their boats.

October 3

Mid Week Paddle Gang Kishwaukee–Cherry Valley

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

Today we will paddle the main branch of the Kish with the fall leaves beginning to turn so the gorge should be spectacular! Car shift at 10 AM. Bring lunch, water, etc. PFDs required! Please e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to the put-in available upon request.

October 5-8

Pine River/Little Manistee, Michigan

Beginner/Intermediate
Base Camping

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Bill Erickson 847-201-1904
We will be camping at the Paddlesports Campground beginning on Friday night. Be sure to be in the campground before dark. If you come too late or if you have a dog, camp across the street at Peterson. Please let a leader know what you are going to do. Come prepared for

fun, cold weather, maybe even rain, and a pot luck hootenanny on Saturday night. Because of the possibility of cold water and weather, it is important that all paddlers have control of their boats.

October 6-7

Fawn and Pigeon Rivers Indiana

Paul Clifford 815-886-2554

Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296

We will be camping at Riverside Campground east of Shipshewana on IN Rte 120. Depending on water levels, it will be decided which rivers will be done each day. Car shift from campground on Saturday at 9:30 AM sharp and on Sunday at 9:00 AM sharp. Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday evening for an Amish dinner in Shipshewana. Directions: take I-80/90 east to IN 13. Go south on 13 to IN 120. Go east on 120 for 9.25 miles to Rte 450 west. North on 450 for 0.25 miles, over bridge and left turn into campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to the trip (Thursday latest).

October 6-7

WI Whitewater

Beginner/Intermediate
Whitewater

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
708-386-1371

Kasy Culbertson 608-222-0746
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 leader for details.

October 6

Badfish/Yahara, Cooksville, WI Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

Want to try a little different trip? We will paddle from the Badfish bridge on WI-138 to the County H/Caledonia Rd. bridge just north of Fulton, about 10 miles of paddling. This extension of 4 miles will eliminate the need to park along Rt. 59 and will have us ending at a nice park with facilities! Car shift at 9:30 AM. Bring lunch, dump bag (yes, it is that time of year again), water, etc. PFDs required! Directions: take I-90 north to the Edgerton WI-59 exit - go west on WI-59 to WI-138 in Cooksville - turn right (north) on WI-138 to the bridge. Park on the shoulder. Map available upon request. Please e-mail or call if you plan to paddle.

October 7

Fox River

South Elgin to St. Charles

Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821

Put in at Seba Park downstream of State St. Carshift 9:30 AM.

October 13-14

Black River (Annapolis, MO) Corps of Engineers Hwy K Campground

Intermediate, Base Camping

David & Mary Stjern
217-544-2703

John Shafran 708/788-1337

A base-camping trip from the Hwy K Campground (note: there is one on either side of the river) and the plan is to paddle from Lesterville to Hwy K (@15miles) on Saturday and

Information about these trips is subject to change. Always contact the leader prior to trip.

Trips and Events (continued)

about 7 miles from Hwy K on Sunday. This is an exploratory trip meaning that it has not been scouted. Mary and David would provide the main course for a communal dinner on Saturday night to anyone who lets us know in advance that they are interested.

October 14

Rock River

Oregon to Grand Detour

Beginner, Flatwater

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

Absolutely great Fall canoeing/kayaking. The put-in is in Oregon at the Park East Access Area, south of the spillway dam, one block north of Rte. 64 on the east side of the river. Expect rock formations and very few power boats. And maybe the resident eagles will make an appearance. Car shift at 9:30 AM.

October 17

Mid Week Paddle Gang

To Be Determined

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

The river for this trip and put in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river and cfs water levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the PSC website trip schedule for further details as they become available. (Please note: Two weeks from this date is Halloween so we will move the next paddle up one week to 10-24-07)

October 20-21

St. Francis River, MO

Intermediate, Whitewater

Bill Barclay 708-386-1371

Peg Strobel

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, a canyon, and chances to play. Wet/dry suits, helmets required. Call leaders for directions, put-in times, etc.

October 20-21

Kankakee River, Indiana

Fran Almquist 815-459-8134

Phyllis Wells 262-598-9855

Canoeing and Sandhill crane watch. Camp at Tippicanoe State Park, Indiana in canoe camp ground. Call to reserve sites with electric hook-up.

October 21

Great River Confluence

Paddle (again)

Channahon at Bridge St.

access to Dupage and I & M

Intermediate, Flatwater

Brad De Ark 847-494-3830

We will do this again with no pleasure boats, we hope. Meet at Bridge St. access at 9:00 AM because we have less light this late in the year. Be prepared for cool weather paddling. Please e-mail or call trip leader to confirm.

October 24

Mid Week Paddle Gang

To Be Determined

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

The river for this trip and put in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river cfs and water levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the PSC website trip schedule for further details as they become available.

October 27-28

Elkhart River / Chain

O'Lakes, Indiana

Louis, Ruth, Tyler 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. Car shift will be at 9:00 AM from the campground in Chain O'Lakes State Park. Special note: No organized dinner for Saturday night, so come prepared to do whatever you desire. Directions: From Chicago, take the Indiana Tollway (I-80/90) east to Indiana route 13 (east of Elkhart & Goshen, IN). Take route 13 south to U.S. route 6. Drive east on U.S. 6 to Indiana route 9, turn right (south) onto route 9 and proceed through the town of Albion about three miles until you see the sign for Chain O'Lakes State Park. Turn left (east) The park gate will be about another mile down the road.

New and Renewing Members

Anderson, Mary

847-543-8216

1138 Blackburn Drive
Grayslake, IL 60030
Bauling, Dennis
Cassie
13613 Hofeman Road
Brodhead, WI 53520
Brandys, Regina
8607 Springfield
Skokie, IL 60076
DesJardins, Marcy

262-605-8887

6917 55th Street
Kenosha, WI 53144
Dudley, Sandra
Frieden, Karen
Gibellin, Jeff

773-775-7419

5722 N Leonard Ave
Chicago, IL 60646-5514
Griffin, Dave & Rachel

630-450-2193

329 S. Stewart Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
Mamala, Maria
Marder, Stephanie

773-218-3079

5250 N. Sawyer
Chicago, IL 60625
McCrosky, John
Deborah Walens

815-220-0062

309 Howe Ave
Oak Park, IL 60802
McKinley, Silas

314-454-1924

4944 Lindell Apt 6E
St. Louis, MO 63108-1522
Nelson, Bruce
Karen Rossi

815-639-9044

4004 Marsh Ave.
Rockford, IL 61114
Peetoom, Carl & Marilyn

309-387-6966

2075 Zion Oaks Rd
Pekin, IL 61554
Risberg, Greg
Madeleine VanHecke

630-833-5066

295 E. Church
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Rizza, Linda
503 Stevens
Sleepy Hollow, IL 60112

Trips and Events (continued)

October 28
Lower Fox River
Yorkville to Sheridan
Advanced Beginner, Flatwater
Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

Meet in Yorkville on Hydraulic Street near the old Post Office downstream left, south of the Rte. 47 bridge. We will lunch at Silver Springs Park and end at The Last Resort, just north of downtown Sheridan. Distance approximately 15 miles. Car shift 9:30 AM.

November 4
Illinois River
Spring Valley to Hennepin
Advanced Beginner, Flatwater
Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

Put-in is at the boat ramp on Rte. 89 in Spring Valley. Paddling distance is approximately 11 miles. We will be paddling the elbow area of the river with some light barge traffic. Weather conditions will dictate the direction we paddle, as we

will paddle with the wind at our back. If you like big rivers, this is a good section of the Illinois to paddle. Because of the time of year, power boats will be minimal. Car shift at 9:30 AM.

November 10
Fall Dinner and Annual
Meeting

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565

Details and reservation form on page 3.

Trip Reports

Lower Volga River

North of Strawberry Point, Iowa, June 16, 2007—We originally had opted for a shorter paddle trip, starting at Mederville, but, upon seeing the condition of the canoe landing (very steep, eroded hillside with a narrow, sloping, muddy area at the river's edge) we decided to try for a less hazardous put-in. We drove a bit upstream to Osborne Park (see page 152 in "Paddling Iowa"). The first nine miles from Osborne to Littleport had the lower Volga showing us its best form, with spectacular scenery, fun riffles, and wildlife galore. We were seldom out of sight and sound of numerous red-tailed hawks, accompanied by the usual blue herons, Baltimore orioles and other streamside fowl. The second portion of the trip, from Littleport to Garber, had the river showing a calmer nature, as this year's floods had eliminated many of the sharper bends and riffles. This situation was ameliorated by the presence of many young wood duck families (scurrying away from the threatening paddlers) and a fine display of eagles, both adult and yearling. The logs that were stuck in the County X3c bridge girders (30 feet above water level) reminded us once again of the flooding potential of the Volga, as did the now almost deserted town of Elkport near the takeout. We found the river to be almost deserted, meeting only one couple on the water (taking a two-day rafting trip from Osborne to Littleport!) At 210 cfs, this entire 20 mile trip had deep enough water for even the deepest-running boats (at a level at which the upper Volga would require a bit of walking.)

This is a good stream for a summer low-water paddle trip.

Al Donaldson

North Branch Kishwaukee River

County Line Rd. to Red Horse Bend, June 16, 2007—Although the temperatures were in the low 90s with high humidity, we all were quite comfortable once we were on the water. This river winds and twists its way towards the main branch, passing through a mostly wooded corridor which provided welcome shade as we paddled along. The peace and quiet, delightful riffles, abundant wildlife, and pleasant company made for a wonderful trip! We saw deer, beaver, muskrats, ducks, geese, an eagle, the great blue heron, various songbirds including quite a few orioles, an egret, and one enthusiastic black dog chasing a duck who then swam out to greet us! Summer wildflowers are beginning to be seen blooming along the river banks: spiderwort, chicory, Queen Anne's lace, daisies, water lilies, blue flag iris, lots of goats beard, etc. Everyone commented on all the different kinds of dragonflies and damsel flies that were seen buzzing around and no cicadas! Thanks, John, for helping with the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Fox River

South Elgin to St. Charles, June 16, 2007—Hot and mostly sunny day. Although the river was low at the beginning of our trip we did not have to walk in any sections. We floated most of the way seeing many blue

herons, coots, Canada geese, mallard ducks among the more common small birds. The paddle became challenging near the end with many jet skis and power boats in the river. The takeout area was a sandy beach at Ferson Creek Park.

Peggy Jacobs

Little Turkey / Turkey Rivers

Eldorado, Iowa, June 17, 2007—The Little Turkey section (about 5 miles) from Nest Road to Eldorado was pleasant (as always,) although the low flow made for less excitement in the riffles than we had seen in the spring. Eagles, red-tailed hawks and new hatchings of wood ducks kept us entertained for the entire trip. The flow was still sufficient to make for a 5 mile paddle of less than an hour, however. The Turkey River segment from Eldorado to W42 was a bit slower. The eagles' nest below the B40 bridge was not visible due to foliage, but the adult eagles were standing guard rather obviously nearby. The warm temperature invited water play, and Jim Jorgenson (Independence, IA) responded by practicing various rolls in his Pirouette (about fourteen times, I think...) and managed to hit every one cleanly! The other paddlers got rather used to seeing his kayak "shiny side up!" A good activity for a hot summer day!

Al Donaldson

South Branch of the Kishwaukee River

Potawatomi Park, Kirkland to Oak Ridge Forest Preserve, June 20, 2007—Five canoes and five kayaks put in at the park on Kirkland Road and paddled

down to the Oak Ridge Forest Preserve on Blomberg Road. We could not have asked for a more perfect day! The water levels were high at 463 cfs and 3.24 feet at the Fairdale gauge, but that just meant we didn't have to worry much about doing a lot of scraping or walking. We had one portage for a river-wide strainer and several other obstructions to contend with, but otherwise had an uneventful, very pleasant trip. Lunch was on a sand/gravel bar in the shade with a nice cooling breeze. Wildlife seen were a muskrat, large carp, an otter, bald eagles, hawks, vultures, deer, orioles, kingfishers, shore birds, of course lots of great blue herons, conspicuously absent were Canada geese and ducks! Don't know where they were today! Very few wildflowers were seen due to the heavily wooded shore line in this area. One dump and several "close calls" occurred with no one the worse for wear.

Melinda Tury

Kankakee River

Jasper Pulaski, June 21–22, 2007—We paddled the Tippecanoe River Saturday. The water was higher than usual, the weather warm and sunny, the fall colors perfect and the mobile homes and old trailers along there interesting. After canoeing, we drove to Jasper Pulaski Wildlife Preserve and watched 9000 Sand Hill Cranes come in and then walked a mile into the marsh to see them fly in for the night. Unfortunately, the weather on Sunday was cold, wet and too windy to paddle. Thanks again to Clyde Wells for the shuttle and also to Grace

and Voytek for the delicious pirogis.

Fran Almquist

Fox River

Yorkville to Millbrook, June 23, 2007—Rain, rain, rain didn't stop us! But it does focus a paddler. We paddled straight through from Yorkville to Millbrook, 8 miles, in about 90 minutes. Since it's muddy at the Millington takeout, we shortened the trip to Millbrook and the concrete boat ramp there. Many great blue heron and deer out today. Thanks to Kathi Landow and Bob Graham for help with the car shift.

George Stenitzer

Intro to River Camping

Kishwaukee River; Garden Prairie to Cherry Valley, June 23–24, 2007—We launched at 9:00 Saturday morning, we lunched at Red Horse Bend Canoe Launch. In Belvedere we had to portage around the dam, then we proceeded to the campsite approximately three miles west of town. On Sunday we paddled the rest of the way to Cherry Valley.

Mark Morrall

Des Plaines Confluence Loop

Channahan, June 24, 2007—Six kayaks and one tandem canoe started off on the DuPage, headed south to the Des Plaines, then to the Grant Creek cutoff, portaged to the Kankakee cutoff into the Kankakee river, then to the confluence with the DesPlaines, which forms the Illinois River, then portaged over to the I & M canal and back to the access point. Wow, seven waterways in one day! Wildlife seen: hawks,

herons, deer, many other birds, deer, turtles, a big snake and some goats. Annoying human wildlife seen: powerboaters and jetskiers. A lot of variety on this trip. We paddled through lily pads and watery tree graveyard. We saw huge barges and the Dresden nuclear power plant. We did three portages, some easy, some not so. Thanks to Jeff and Angelika for bringing Ted the "Wonder Dog" He kept us smiling with his antics. Thanks to Pete for doing the sweep. Will plan to do this trip in the fall when there is less boat traffic.

Brad De Ark

Nippersink Creek

McHenry County, June 24, 2007—We took one break to explore the lagoon near the campground sign in mid morning. We almost missed the lunch location as they have removed the stairs. Were they too slippery? We had a new guest - soon to be member? Thanks to Reid Miller and Marcelle Fahr for doing the car shuttles.

Joan Taylor

Kishwaukee

Kirkland, June 27, 2007—We launched four kayaks and two canoes from the Potawatomi Woods canoe launch under sunny and hot skies (but with predicted thunderstorms in the offing.) Our first hint that the trip was to have some interesting features came near the mouth of Kingsbury Creek, where one of our paddlers took an alternate line and apparently disappeared from the face of the earth. The rest of the crew shored up and we spent an hour or so searching, whistling and

sending boats back upstream to check side channels (Thanks for the major upstream paddling, Mike McD!) As the lunch hour approached and then slid by, we got a cell phone call from our missing paddler: his alternate channel was quite a bit quicker than the one we had taken (but none of us knew that at the time) and he, thinking that he had gotten behind, had paddled furiously down to the Irene Road bridge and finally stopped, watched the nesting red-tailed hawks and finally gave us a call. Reunited and lunched, we continued downriver to Oak Ridge Forest Preserve, where half of the crew headed back to civilization and the other half started to car shift again down to Kish F.P., this time with three paddlers, one kayak and one canoe... A Winnebago County F.P. Sheriff's Police car had entered the launch area at Oak Ridge just before we left for the car shift: imagine our surprise when we were all pulled over a mile down the road by the same squad car, lights flashing and all... As it turned out, he was just worried about our "abandoned boats" at Oak Ridge and he left us with a somewhat puzzled smile to continue our (under the speed limit!) car shift. The last seven miles down to Kish F.P. was a delightful segment, with wildlife sightings galore, including lots of muskrats, two wild turkeys and all of the other usual suspects. The "shortcut" channel on river left a mile below Oak Ridge has been closed again by deadfall, so we ended up taking the main channel (more chainsaw work will be needed to open that swift little passage up again!) Oddly, nobody wished

to extend the trip further, so we packed up and drive off from Kishwaukee F.P.

Al Donaldson

Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Cherry Valley, June 30, 2007—Ten people in ten boats put in at Belvidere for a wonderful relaxing day of paddling. Bright sun, cool breezes, moderate temperatures, a cfs of 247, and a depth of 1.8 feet. We had one spot where we had to get out and walk a bit. Who could ask for a more perfect day! We had two guests along who enjoyed themselves so much they have decided to become members! Wildlife seen were vultures feeding on the remains of a fox on a sand bar, hawks, many great blue herons, two squabbling green herons chasing each other, scolding crows (I think we were too close to their fledglings for their comfort!), shore birds, a successfully fishing kingfisher grabbing minnows out of the water right in front of us, two muskrats, cedar waxwings, orioles, beautiful dragonflies, damselflies, and butterflies, just to name a few! The Kish always supplies us with abundant wildlife! The summer wildflowers were out but not in the abundance that you would think. Seen were tickseed sunflowers, goats beard, chicory, New York ironweed, blue vervain, sumac in flowering stage, Queen Anne's lace. The poison ivy at the Distillery Rd. lunch stop was not as bad as the last time we did this stretch. At the takeout both at car shift and the finish of our trip were literally hundreds of tubers going down the river! I was so glad I didn't pick that stretch to do – we

would have been dodging them all day!!!! Thanks Dave for once again taking me back to get my car at the end of the trip.

Melinda Tury

DuPage

Hammel Woods to Chanahon, July 1, 2007—Twelve kayakers and one solo canoeist enjoyed a happy day on the river. We had one kayak over-turn when a paddler admittedly followed too close. Remind folks to leave distance between boats. Thanks to Terry McGuan for doing the driver return. Welcome to Kathy and Susan Hawbaker, Stacy Sparlin and Mary Maul on their first trip with the club. Congrats to Gail Jacobs on her new Dancer.

Joan Taylor

Fox River

Yorkville to Millbridge, July 1, 2007—We spotted a considerable number of snowy egrets and a few great blue herons and a green heron. There was just enough water to avoid grounding too much. Lunch stop was at Silver Springs State Park. Everyone had a good time and we had a few new club members on their first trip with the Club. Thanks to Tom Croak and Michelle Skryper for running the car shift.

John and Barb Shaw

Des Plaines

Route 60 put-in, July 4, 2007—After much concern about forecasts of thunder showers, it was just another great summer day on the river. We saw several blue herons. The one dam on this section required concentration to do a one foot drop, but all went over without incident.

We stopped for lunch 30 feet before the entrance to the lagoon which would have been a more appropriate place. We had three new guests and thirteen happy paddlers.

Joan Taylor

Upper Des Plaines River Cleanup

Russell Road to Wadsworth Road, July 7, 2007—Wildlife: Lots of great blue herons & great egrets, a great horned owl, a couple of red-tailed hawks, a couple of deer, red-winged blackbirds, killdeer, spotted sandpipers, a couple of green herons. There were a few short shallow places, which the tandem canoeists had to wade through. There are also a couple of old beaver dams we rode over. We picked up some trash, and cut safe passageways through 3 or 4 deadfalls. Three obstacles remain on this section, all of which are below Rte 173. We scooped under two of them, but the third one is a logjam that spans the river, and needs some heavy equipment to clear. Besides, after a few hours in the hot humid weather, we were in no shape to tackle anything this big. October has much better weather for logjam removal trips. Obstruction info, including specific locations, is being reported to the Lake County Forest Preserve District, though I don't know when they'll get around to clearing it.

Paul Klonowski

Sugar River

Brodhead to Avon, Wisconsin, July 7, 2007—14 paddlers in 9 boats set out on a hot (temp. at the takeout read 95 degrees), cloudless day with fitful breezes. The cfs at 263 and a depth of .92

feet were adequate, so no one had to do any walking. The first few miles we had to dodge a few tubers but after passing the camp ground we had the river to ourselves. Lunch at WI-81 and 11 was very pleasant with shade, restroom facilities and a nice gravel and sand boat launch. We left a car there during car shift just in case the heat proved to be too much to handle. Two of us went for a quick dip at the park to cool off. Wildlife seen were two muskrats, great blue heron, green herons, a bald eagle, vultures, various songbirds, kingfishers, and one lonely duck. The summer wildflowers of Queen Anne's lace, chicory, daisies, water parsnip, vervain, and jo-pye weed, the ever present mustard, and an occasional blooming arrowhead were spotted along the banks. The takeout was "a bear", but the trip, and always wonderful paddlers of PSC made for a pleasant day of paddling. AND OF COURSE, THE ICE CREAM AFTERWARDS IN BRODHEAD WAS A SPECIAL TREAT!!! Thanks to the various car shifters and the ever present help with boats, etc. which helped the day run smoothly.

Melinda Tury

Trip Leaders:

File your trip announcements and reports on the PSC web site. Click on the Trip Schedule or Trip Reports link on the left side of any page. On-line announcements and reports are automatically forwarded to the newsletter.

Announcements and reports can be sent in hard copy to:

Bill Kessler
1427 South Spencer
Berkeley, Illinois 60163.

If you need hard copies of the sign-in sheets and report forms, contact:

Sherri Graham
3s564 Haylett Avenue
Warrenville, Illinois 60555
630-393-0383

Reports published in the newsletter may be edited for length. Complete trip reports are always available on the PSC web site and contain directions for put-in and shuttle, weather and gauge conditions, and other historical and environmental information.

Prairie State Canoeists

2008 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

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 my family and myself. 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 below.

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Last Name _____ First Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail address (optional) _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Children under 18 (names and ages, please)

Dues: \$20.00

Dues paid after September 1 are applied to following year. Please make checks payable to: Prairie State Canoeists.

Complete and sign, then send with check to: Prairie State Canoeists, c/o George Stenitzer 177 North Adams, Oswego, IL 60543

____New Member ____Renewal ____New address or phone?

Print Name, Address & Phone # in directory? _____Yes____No

Print e-mail address in directory? _____Yes____No

Would you like to receive an e-mail notice when each issue of the newsletter is posted on the PSC web site? _____Yes ____No

Looking Forward

Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting.....Sat, Nov 10

Look for these annual events in 2008

Trip Leaders' Meeting

Spring Dinner

Canoeecopia

Training Classes

Paddle 'n Picnic

New Members Trips

Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting