



# PSC Paddler

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

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 40 No. 2 February–March 2008

More things to do on page 4

## Things To Do To Beat The Winter Blahs

*Get Pumped!*

### Spring Dinner

Saturday, March 15, 2008

The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm  
Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois

5:00 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour, 6:00 PM Dinner

Join us for an evening of celebrating the sport of paddling. Buffet dinner. Our special guest for the evening will bring new insights, adventures, and tales to get you pumped for the paddling season. See details and reservation form on page 12.

### Solo Canoeing—Sign Up Now!

- No experience needed
- All equipment provided

#### • Great intro to paddling for families, including teens

This class, held in the indoor pool at James B. Conant High School in Schaumburg, will emphasize basic strokes, boat control, and rescues. Classroom sessions cover safety, the paddling environment, gear and equipment, and how to get started in the sport, taught by American Canoe Association instructors. Classes are on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning February 12.

Contact High School District 211 at 847-755-6820, or register on-line at [www.d211.org](http://www.d211.org); go to Continuing Ed, where there is also an excellent map and directions. For more information, contact Tom Lindblade, [lindbladet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindbladet@sbcglobal.net), 815-963-5954.

### February Social

Wolf's Head Inn

6937 Joliet Road

Indian Head Park, Illinois

Hosted by Ray Ziemer

Saturday, February 23, 2008

5:30 - ?

This suburban roadhouse has been a popular watering hole for many years. They have a l-o-o-o-o-ng bar and some tasty items on the menu.

Contact Ray Ziemer ([rgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rgziemer@worldnet.att.net)) 630-836-0086 if you think you'd like to join us. We will be ordering from the menu, but could run a bar tab.

Directions: From the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) SB, exit toward I-55 to find the marked Joliet Road exit ramp. From I-55 NB (east of County Line Rd.) there is a Joliet Rd. exit on the left that takes you right there. From I-55 SB you need to exit at La Grange Rd and go north to Joliet Rd., then go west to Wolf Rd. The restaurant is in a small strip mall on the SW corner of Wolf and Joliet Road (Old Rte 66.)

### In This Issue

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**DON'T MISS ALL THE FUN!** If you see a notice about **LAST ISSUE** next to your name below, it is time to renew your membership for 2008. Use the form on the last page of this newsletter. Your renewal must be received by March 3 in order for you to be included in the annual directory and receive further issues.

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

## From the Chair

**W**ow! Its only January and frigid cold outside, but the members of this club want to be on the water! We already have over 100 trips planned for 2008! Thanks to the leaders for getting trips planned and posted. We had a good turnout at the Annual Trip Leaders' Meeting on January 12 which is designed to provide the 'Tentative' Trip List for the year. There are a few dates still without any trips planned; the 'Official' list will be in the PSC Membership Directory—so there is still time to get some additional trips listed on the website before it is published.

There are plenty of opportunities to get together before we have open water to paddle again...Look for

details about the indoor solo canoe class, February Social, Canoecopia and the Spring Dinner.

There are always opportunities to support our club—you can find information in this issue for current activities. We need members to represent PSC at Canoecopia March 7-9; the Annual Picnic is in the initial planning stages and provides many options to volunteer; and there are several new ways for members to support the PSC Website.

So...stay warm, look forward to the arrival of spring and nurture our common passion to *Be on the water!*

SYOTR (See you on the river!)

*Sherri*

## PSC Booth at Canoecopia

**P**SC will set up our informational booth on Friday, March 7 at about 4:30 PM, and the booth must be staffed during event hours until Sunday, March 9 at 4:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Sherri Graham at [canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net) or 630-393-0383 to sign up for a time.

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

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:  
[mtury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtury@sbcglobal.net) or call  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

## PSC Paddler

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

### 2008 Officers and Directors

#### Chair

**Sherri Graham, Warrenville**  
630-393-0383  
[canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net)

#### Co-Chair

**Ray Ziemer, Warrenville**  
[rgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rgziemer@worldnet.att.net)

#### Secretary

**Susan Halvorsen, Rockford**  
815-397-5145  
[susanh50@tds.net](mailto:susanh50@tds.net)

#### Treasurer

**George Stenitzer, Oswego**  
630-215-6751  
[geo4747@yahoo.com](mailto:geo4747@yahoo.com)

#### Directors

**Rich Rothrock, Hinsdale**  
[richrothrock@yahoo.com](mailto:richrothrock@yahoo.com)

**Carlin Horbal, Glenview**  
[chorbal@yahoo.com](mailto:chorbal@yahoo.com)

**John Shafran, Stickney**  
[kayakerjohnshafran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kayakerjohnshafran@sbcglobal.net)

**Tom Croak, Deerfield**  
[paddler6@earthlink.net](mailto:paddler6@earthlink.net)

**Kathi Landow, Geneva**  
[rivermuse0427@yahoo.com](mailto:rivermuse0427@yahoo.com)

**Steve Shapiro, Arlington Heights**  
[steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net)

**Stan Popelar, Loves Park**  
[sjpopelar@juno.com](mailto:sjpopelar@juno.com)

**Glenn Jensen, Berwyn**  
[zymurgyteacher@yahoo.com](mailto:zymurgyteacher@yahoo.com)

**Melinda Tury, Glendale Heights**

#### Webmasters

**Milt Levenberg, Libertyville**  
847-680-1223  
[milt@milspec3.net](mailto:milt@milspec3.net)

**Michael Collins, Skokie**

#### Training Coordinators

**Tom Lindblade, Rockford**  
630-207-9500  
[lindbladet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindbladet@sbcglobal.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

**William Kessler, Berkeley**  
708-547-5314  
[kslr@aol.com](mailto:kslr@aol.com)

#### Assistant Editors

**Michael Collins**  
**Frances Peshkin**

**Safety Corner**, with Tom Lindblade

## Extreme Cold Weather Paddling

I have written previously about paddling in colder weather, but since the question came up recently as to whether and how to paddle when the temp gets below 32 degrees, I thought I should expand on last year's piece.

First, don't even think about it unless you have a dry suit, proper cold water head gear, gloves, and cold weather booties. A wet suit won't cut it.

You must be prepared to spend time in water that is almost frozen.

Second, don't even think about it unless you and your paddling partners are highly skilled in both rescue and self rescue, and have practiced these skills in cold conditions. Three paddlers is highly recommended for this type of paddling.

Third, don't even think about it unless you are skilled at reading winter water conditions. Deep moving water with thick ice is a recipe for disaster, because of the possibility of being pushed under the ice and not being able to get out.

Fourth, understand the differences between kayaks and canoes under extreme conditions. On rivers with moving water and some ice, a canoe has an edge, because they allow a quicker exit, can break thin ice more easily and can ride up and over more easily. Kayaks have the edge in open water, because they are warmer, you can roll in case of a capsized, and stay relatively dry and in your boat.

With the above caveats, it is possible to extend the paddling year

usually about a month on both ends. This year has been an exception because of early snow and very low temperatures.

Several of the paddles I have done in early winter and early spring are among my most memorable. No one is there, it is very quiet and we have seen some amazing views of wildlife. You can see a video of a winter paddle on Yellow Creek at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVTBKIWk22M>.

***Don't even think about it unless...***

*[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, lindbladet@sbcglobal.net.]*

## PSC Paddling Workshops Will Enhance Your Skills and Enjoyment

Prairie State Canoeists has a long tradition of providing training classes for its members, taught by instructors certified by the American Canoe Association. For 2008, five different courses of training for both canoeing and kayaking will be offered. Details are in the Trips and Events listings and on the web site.

**Introduction to Paddling:** (April 19)  
Basic paddling technique, safety, flatwater maneuvers, tips on equipment, boat design, transporting your boat on a vehicle safely, and how to get started in the sport.

**Moving Water 1:** (May 10)  
Ferrying, eddy turns, and peel-outs are a few of the maneuvers you will master before moving on to Moving Water 2.

**Moving Water 2:** (June 14)  
Hone your maneuvering skills on faster currents, sharply defined eddy lines, midstream boulders, and other features. Moving Water 1 is a prerequisite.

**Whitewater:** (June 28–29)  
Special equipment and extensive experience is required for this rigorous training. Contact the instructor well in advance for specific details.

**Introduction to River Canoe Camping:** (Date TBA)  
River canoe camping, where the next sandbar is your home away from home. Planning and map reading, gear and equipment, food and cooking, camp craft, safety on the river, and much more.

**Introduction to Wilderness Canoe Tripping:** (August 8–10)

Camping for three days and two nights, paddling and portaging deep into a forest wilderness. Get ready for those more adventurous canoe trips. Introduction to Paddling class or prior paddling instruction is required.

Check the Trip Announcements in the PSC Paddler and the web site for complete details on these classes.

## More Things To Do—Paddling, Outdoors, Volunteering

### PSC Invited for Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day was founded in 1970 to celebrate and raise awareness of environmental issues. The Boone County Conservation District and the Four Rivers Environmental Coalition invites PSC members to join their celebration on Saturday, April 26 in Spencer Park in Belvidere.

Mark Morrall is inviting PSC members to assist in

- Co-leading a short river trip in the morning,
- Staffing the PSC booth to hand out flyers and welcome interested paddlers,

- Providing a short demonstration of paddling techniques on the adjacent pond.

In addition, Mark says, “I would like to have club members e-mail me any pictures that they might have showing PSC involved in river clean-ups—canoes loaded up, pictures at the end showing the big mound of garbage, pictures of the weirdest thing pulled out of the river, smiling faces, and photos of a job well done are what I’m looking for. I will produce a poster to show at our PSC table.” Contact Mark at [morrall@t6b.com](mailto:morrall@t6b.com), 815-765-3402.

### Join the Team for Paddle ’n Picnic

Have an idea for our annual Paddle ’n Picnic? This get-together features skill-building games, a river trip, demonstrations on paddling, safety, camp-craft, knot-tying, orienteering, a raffle, games on land and water, and a gear swap.

Volunteers are needed to organize this event, including a lead coordinator.

Do you have ideas, skills, or a willingness to help? Contact Kathi Landow, 630-208-7742, [rivermuse0427@yahoo.com](mailto:rivermuse0427@yahoo.com).

[www.prairiestatecanoists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoists.org)

### PSC Web Site Poised for Growth But Needs Your Help

The PSC Website is a well designed, reliable tool for our members and the paddling community in general; it’s a wonderful thing, and our membership relies on it heavily! It has changed the way we communicate and has provided us with the ability to list trips only a day or two in advance—which has expanded our paddling opportunities!

The Board has received numerous excellent suggestions and inquiries about how to improve our web site, including:

- Provide more frequent updates to the main page with time relevant content;
- Improve the notification to members (via e-mails) when changes are made to the site and when the newsletter is posted;
- Define the website/webmaster/support functions and processes to provide additional positive growth with this resource;

After discussing the many positive suggestion over the last four to five

years, the board has determined that more volunteers with specific skills, are needed. Of course, one person can fulfill more than one function.

**The Web Site Committee** needs three to five more volunteers to help define the expectations and functions of the PSC website, webmasters and other support roles.

**Proofreaders** (1-3 people) will regularly browse the website for corrections and updates and notify the webmasters.

**Content Editors** (1-3 people) will provide text (actual content) that will be provided to the webmasters

for posting to the site; this can be from other resources, upcoming events, etc.

**One more webmaster** is needed (in addition to the current volunteers) specifically to make more frequent updates to the site. A webmaster must have the technical skills to modify html code, run scripts, etc.

If you have the interest and skills to help with this effort, please consider stepping up to the task. Contact Sherri Graham for more information: [canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net) 630-393-0383

## Trips and Events

February 12–March 26

### Solo Canoeing Course Conant High School, Schaumburg

See details on page 1.  
Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500

February 23

### February Social

See details on page 1.

March 15

### Spring Dinner, Lambs Farm

See details pages 1 and 12.

March 15

### Des Plaines River, Wadworth to Gowe Park

Beginner

Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877  
[acocallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acocallas@sbcglobal.net)

E-mail for details.

March 15–16

### St Francis River, Missouri

Intermediate, Whitewater

Bill Barclay, Peg Strobel  
708-386-1371

[chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net)

Contact the leaders for the latest information.

March 22

### Nippersink Creek, Fox Lake Area

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Steve Shapiro 847-253-5875  
[steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net)

George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
[geo4747@yahoo.com](mailto:geo4747@yahoo.com)

This is a nice easy stream to limber up those stiff winter muscles for the paddling season. Because of the time of year and cold weather you must bring extra clothing, and PFDs. Canoe registrations are occasionally checked by the DNR. We will paddle from Glacial Park to Spring Grove. *Directions:* Take Route 12 (Rand Road) north from Fox Lake to the intersection with Route 31. Continue straight on Tryon Grove Road a short way to Keystone Road and turn left (S) to the Park. We will carshift at 9:30 AM. Bring Lunch. Occasionally, this trip gets cancelled due to ice or low water.

March 23

### Fox River, Yorkville to Millington

Beginner

Janice Wellborn 708-848-6026  
[janwellborn@hotmail.com](mailto:janwellborn@hotmail.com)

George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
[geo4747@yahoo.com](mailto:geo4747@yahoo.com)

Contact the leaders for information.

March 29

### West Branch Du Page River St. Charles Rd. to Mack Rd.

Advanced Beginner

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

Back to our old put-in and take-out, now that the Mack Road canoe landing is open and the EPA's thorium clean-up is done in these reaches. We'll get to see first-hand what the stream bank restoration looks like through Blackwell Forest Preserve. Be prepared for any kind of weather, log jams, and the usual mud. Bring lunch and dry bags. Car shift: 9:30. Put-in: Take IL Rte 64 (North Avenue) to about a mile east of IL Rte. 59—turn north at Prince Crossing Rd (stop light) and turn east on St. Charles Rd. to the river. Call leader for details.

April 4–6

### La Louisianne FreeStyle Symposium, Mandeville, Louisiana

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Tracy Hunt 630-832-3538  
[tracy\\_hunt@netzero.net](mailto:tracy_hunt@netzero.net)

Learn the art and elegance of precision boat control in a beautiful venue; the warm spring temps will be a pleasant change from the northern cold. FreeStyle technique is applicable to all types of canoeing, and classes are offered from beginning to advanced. Mandeville is just 20 miles or so northwest of New Orleans, and the home cooked Cajun food is out of this world! Check out [www.laloucanoe.com](http://www.laloucanoe.com) for registration and more detailed information, or contact the leader. (Not a PSC trip.)

April 6–12

### NE Iowa Streams Scout and Cleanup

Intermediate, Scouting

Al Donaldson 319 277-3194  
[alandonaldson@sprintmail.com](mailto:alandonaldson@sprintmail.com)

During this session, we will be scouting and “civilizing” the streams for the Iowa trip that is happening later in the month. We'll do scouting trips on two sections of the West Fork of the Cedar River and cleanups (some for trash and some for obstructions) on Blackhawk Creek, Beaver Creek, and others as needed. These are likely to be quite adventure-filled trips, with high and quick water (with the spring thaw) and lots of challenging obstructions. More information on the streams to be paddled will be posted as the date draws closer. Please call or e-mail if you'd like to join this experience!

April 6

### Dammed DuPage—West Branch DuPage River

Advanced Beginner

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

We'll start our paddle below the Warrenville Dam, but you'll have to portage around two others—the attractive weir at McDowell Grove and the ugly and notorious Fawell Dam—before landing at Centennial Park, Naperville. Car shift at 9:30. Call leader for details.

April 9

### Mid-Week Paddle Gang Season Opener—Fox River

Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285  
[mtury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtury@sbcglobal.net)

This will be the season opener for the Mid-Week Paddle Gang. As in past years we will paddle from Seba Park in South Elgin down to Ferson Creek Park in St. Charles. Lunch will follow at Salernos on the Fox about 1/2 mile south from the take out on Rt. 31. Car shift at 10 AM. PFDs must be worn. Bring dump bag, water, etc. Please e-mail if you plan to come. Map to put-in available upon request.

## Trips and Events continued

April 12

### West Branch Du Page River

Advanced Beginner

Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086

[fgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:fgziemer@worldnet.att.net)

Paul Clifford 815-886-2554

[pclifford38@hotmail.com](mailto:pclifford38@hotmail.com)

Join us as we paddle from Centennial Park at Naperville's Riverwalk through the town to Knoch Knolls or Weigand Park. History, houses, and a pleasant stream. Plan on a lunch stop. Car shift 9:30. Call leaders for information.

April 13

### Des Plaines, Gowe Park to

### Independence Grove

Beginner

Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877

[acocallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acocallas@sbcglobal.net)

Notes: e-mail for details.

April 19

### Introduction to Paddling

Beginner, Training

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314

[kslr@aol.com](mailto:kslr@aol.com)

Oakhurst Forest Preserve, Aurora, Illinois. Join us for this skill-building session with American Canoe Association certified instructors, under the supervision of Training Coordinator Tom Lindblade. No previous experience is necessary. Focus will be on safety, efficient paddling, and basic strokes and maneuvers on flat water. Fees include \$10.00 for instruction costs. If you are not a member of the American Canoe Association ([www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)), an additional \$10.00 is required. You will have the opportunity to videotape your paddling so you can review your technique. Bring your boat (canoe or kayak), PFD, paddle, dump clothes and a lunch. (Some extra boats and equipment are available on request.) Contact Bill Kessler for further instructions, and please indicate whether you paddle a tandem canoe, solo canoe, or kayak.

April 19

### DuPage River, Naperville to Plainfield

Beginner

Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086

[rgziemer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rgziemer@worldnet.att.net)

Paul Clifford 815-886-2554

For this easy paddle we'll start on the West Branch at Weigand Park in south Naperville, then pass the confluence of East and West Branches, continuing through the ever more suburban landscape to Electric Park in Plainfield. Plan on lunch en route and a 9:30 car shift. Call leaders for details.

April 19-20

### Wisconsin Whitewater

Intermediate/Advanced, Whitewater

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel

708-386-1371

[chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net)

Contact leaders

April 19-27

### Fourth Annual Northeastern

### Iowa Rivers Follies

Intermediate, Flatwater

Al Donaldson 319-277-3194

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

We are just beginning to plan this event for 2008 (as of October, 2007), so let us know your preferences as to rivers to paddle, campgrounds and difficulty levels. Please use e-mail when possible.

April 19-20

### Tipppecanoe River, Indiana

Beginner, Base Camping

Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296

Igyartos 847-587-7462

We will be paddling the river Saturday and Sunday, after a 9:00 AM (sharp, Chicago time) car shift from the campground. Inquire at the campground gate for our sites. Directions: Take I-80/94 east to

I-65 and south to US 30. East on US 30 to US 35 and south on 35 through Knox to Tippecanoe River State Park and to the campground. Please bring dump clothes, cold weather gear and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to the trip. (Thursday at the latest!)

April 20

### Mazon River

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

[canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net)

Call or e-mail for details.

April 23

### Mid Week Paddle Gang on the Des Plaines

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

[mtury@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtury@sbcglobal.net)

We will paddle from the Russel Road canoe launch down to Wadsworth Road—water levels permitting—stopping somewhere along the way for lunch. Car shift at 10 AM. PFD's must be worn. Bring lunch, dump bag, water, etc. Please e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map available upon request to the put-in.

April 26

### Earth Day Celebration, Belvidere

Beginner

Mark Morrall 815-765-3402

[morrall@t6b.com](mailto:morrall@t6b.com)

See page 4 for details.

## Trip Reports

### Pecatonica

*October 17, 2007*—Although the weather did not give us the forecasted 70 degree temperatures, everyone had a wonderful time paddling down the Pec. Lunch was on a grassy shore at the half-way point. The wind was a little brisk (everyone donned extra layers), but it wasn't so strong that it made paddling unpleasant. We saw a beautiful tom turkey (I told him he better hustle his feathers back into the woods—Thanksgiving was coming!), hawks, a bald eagle, vultures, frogs, turtles, jumping fish, ducks, geese, and flocks of migrating song birds. The fall colors, although muted, were starting to show along the river. Thanks to Bruce and John for the car shift!

*Melinda Tury*

### South Branch Elkhart River and Chain O' Lakes, Indiana

*Albion, Indiana, October 19, 2007*—We had a very enjoyable trip with nice scenic views along the river. Chain O' Lakes offers a unique experience going from lake to lake through woody canals. We saw all the usual abundant wildlife. We also passed close to a pair of nesting sandhill cranes and saw a coyote stalking a deer on a hillside pasture.

*Greg Drufke*

### Des Plaines River Clean-up

*GrandAve (Gurnee) to Independence Grove (Libertyville), October 20, 2007*—Prior to this year's flood, the Lake County Forest Preserve District did a great job of clearing out the large log jams in this section of the river, and I had checked it (post-flood) before the trip. The route was still clear, so we could focus on trash pick-up. I ran sweep, so I only saw a great blue heron (oh darn!); others saw a beaver, a deer, and probably more critters than I did. This clean-up effort, the

first since the recent flooding, was huge. We found two tires, two kids' wading pools, and a message in a bottle. I didn't even try to count the bags of trash we pulled out of the river—it was a lot! The whitewater kayaks proved to be excellent vehicles for getting trash out of incredibly tangled wooded debris piles; the canoes (1 tandem, 5 solos) were pretty much filled to capacity when we finally got off the river. Many thanks to the nine paddlers who joined me in this effort. This section of the river now looks great! Special thanks to Sarah Hartman & Sharon Colht for driving shuttles. Extra special thanks to Jim Frater of the Mad City Paddlers, who drove in from Madison, Wisconsin, for this effort!

*Paul Klonowski*

### West Branch DuPage

*Centennial Park to Knoch Knolls, Naperville, October 20, 2007*—The water was fairly low, but the trip was very nice. We scraped the bottom more than we would have liked, but nobody walked. We saw (and displaced) many of the regulars: mallards, wood ducks, heron, kingfisher, hawk, and saw evidence of large jumping fish but did not actually see them. Thanks to all who attended and thanks to Frances and Murray for feeding the leader!

*Kathi Landow*

### I&M Canal

*Channahon at Bridge Street, October 21, 2007*—This was changed from the confluence trip due to high winds. It was a magnificent day; wind was not a major factor as the I&M is somewhat sheltered. We saw red-tailed hawks, turtles, a kingfisher, buzzards, and flock of starlings preparing to migrate. The trip took just over 4 hours with lunch stop at turn-around at McClindon road.

*Brad De Ark*

### Sandhill Cranes

*Jasper Pulaski Game Preserve, Indiana, October 20–21, 2007*—It was warm and sunny with great fall colors. There were 6000+ cranes coming into the marsh at sunset. What a show! It was still thrilling, even after doing this trip with PSC for 20 years.

*Fran Almquist and Phyllis Wells*

### Big Bear/ Little Bear Lake

*Vernon Hills, October 23, 2007*—We had a great evening paddle in a suburban setting. We had two lakes to paddle around on a very peaceful evening. The boat launch was open to public until 10:30 p.m., so it was a great place to have a relaxing night paddle. There was a beautiful new water fountain installed on the east side of the south lake.

*Andy Cocallas*

### Chain O' Lakes/Elkhart River

*Albion, Indiana, October 27, 2007*—We paddled through wooded and open areas, and saw several deer, herons, buzzards, hawks, and lots of carp. A fawn had been shot and left in the river, and butchered deer carcasses were left at the take-out by low-life hunters. We had to go around or over several deadfalls. Sunday's trip was sunny and beautiful with fall colors at their peak. Water levels were low. We were saluted by the buzzards as we passed on the lake. The State Park launch requires the purchase of a boat sticker for \$5. The campground was very crowded for this time of year and full of goblins. We were much impressed with our 70-year-old paddling friend. Mike, you put us to shame.

*Ruth Igyarto*

## Trip Reports continued

### Lower Fox River

*Yorkville to Sheridan, October 28, 2007*—It was a little chilly at the start, but there was abundant sunshine with only a slight wind. The river had a good water level for this time of year. We ate lunch at Silver Springs State Park, then continued on to Sheridan. An eagle sat undisturbed on a tree branch over the water and watched us pass underneath. The maple leaves were revealing their true colors. I was told that somewhere along the trip there was a marriage proposal and a resulting engagement. All paddlers enjoyed the day on the water.

*Rich Rothrock*

### Fox River

*South Elgin to St. Charles, November 3, 2007*—The trip started out cold, but it warmed up quickly. The water level was on the low side, but there were few places to drag. The foot bridge across the river provided some navigational challenges. We started the trip with 6 boats, but lost two due to the presence of a racing shell which fascinated the paddlers from their original course. (This 33% loss rate is generally not acceptable, even by PSC standards.) However, they rejoined the group as we were pulling out of the take-out. It was a treat to be on the river so late in the year. The trees were beautiful, and the weather was cooperative. Thanks to John for the shuttle help.

*Kathi Landow*

### Fox River

*Yorkville to Millington, November 11, 2007*—Forecast of showers and 15 mph winds seems to have kept the girls and canoes home today. Five guys in kayaks enjoyed a calm peaceful paddle down the Fox to Lois Landing without a drop of rain. We saw a couple of deer and

a few heron. Water level was very good, excellent rapids to play in just above bridge St. at Millington. Thanks to Denis Jones for getting my boat and me back to the put in.

*Steve Shay*

### Fox River

*Sheridan to Wedron, November 17, 2007*—The trip started out cold but warmed up quickly. The bluffs were beautiful, and the water was amazing. There were a few low places, but nobody got trapped (except for that rock...). [Check the on-line description of this trip for comments on put-in and take-out options.] Thanks, Steve for a great trip!

*Kathi Landow*

### Sugar River

*Nelson Road to Yale Bridge Road, November 17, 2007*—Five people were supposed to be on this trip but it ended up being just Stan and me. We had a lovely quiet paddle in the drizzle/corn snow with little to no wind. While in Wisconsin the hunters were “quite thick” in the woods, along the roads, and in boats. All of them were quite polite when I called out to them “paddlers on the water” and gave us no trouble. We saw five deer and had a big flock of turkeys fly over us but we did not tell the hunters where they were. Also seen were kingfishers, brown creepers, chickadees, two mallards, juncos, and a couple of flickers. Everything else was hiding out and hanging low and people say animals are dumb! Once in Illinois we had the woods and river all to ourselves. The only difficulty we had was the gate was locked at Yale Bridge! That was a first! Still we both had a very relaxing day on the water.

*Melinda Tury*

### Kishwaukee

*Baumann Park to Kishwaukee Valley, November 24, 2007*—Three boats and people braved a brisk winter day for a delightful paddle down the good old Kish! The only thing that got cold were my feet and a couple of fingers because we were all layered up really well. The Kish always has a few surprises for us and we got one not soon after the put in at Cherry Valley in the form of a river-spanning downed tree that necessitated a few tricky maneuvers to get under on the far left side—like having to lie down in the bottom of your boat! We enjoyed looking at the icicles hanging off the bridges and the patches of snow on the shore. There seemed to be a lot of people out walking in the woods but we did not see any hunters. Wildlife seen were one dead deer on a sand bar, geese, ducks, hawks, chickadees, bluejays, any other woodland birds. With the Perryville gage reading 423 cfs and 5.93 we had to pick our “path” well or we would scrape bottom but I was the only one with my deep draft boat that had much of a problem. All in all a very pleasurable paddle and a good way to work off some of that Thanksgiving dinner! Thanks Sharon for help with the car shift!

*Melinda Tury*

## Looking Forward

February Social	February 23
Canoecopia Booth	March 7–9
Spring Banquet	March 15
<b>Training Classes</b>	
Intro to Paddling	April 19
Moving Water 1	May 10
Moving Water 2	June 14
Whitewater	June 28–29
Intro to River Canoe Camping ..	Date TBA
Intro to Wilderness Tripping ..	August 8–10
Summer Picnic	Date TBA
Fall Dinner	Date TBA

## Tentative Trip List for 2008

This list includes trips posted by January 15 and is intended as a tentative list to aid trip leaders in planning additional trips for 2008. Trips posted by March 4 will be included in the Annual Directory.

**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 editor.

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 or content. 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.

*February 12–March 25, 2008*  
**Contemporary Solo Canoeing Course**  
 Tom Lindblade, 630-207-9500  
*lindbladet@sbcglobal.net*

*February 23, 2008*  
**February Social Wolf's Head Inn**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*March 15, 2008*  
**Des Plaines**  
 Andy Cocallas, 847-830-4877  
*acocallas@sbcglobal.net*

*March 15–16, 2008*  
**St Francis River, MO**  
 Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371  
*chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net*

*March 16, 2008*  
**Mazon River**  
 Steve Shay, 815-791-2543  
*steve-shay@sbcglobal.net*

*March 22, 2008*  
**Nippersink Creek**  
 Steve Shapiro, 847-253-5875  
*steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net*

*March 23, 2008*  
**Fox River**  
 Janice Wellborn, 708-848-6026  
*janwellborn@hotmail.com*

*March 29, 2008*  
**West Branch Du Page River**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*April 4–6, 2008*  
**La Louisianne FreeStyle Symposium**  
 Tracy Hunt, 630-832-3538  
*tj.hunt@sbcglobal.net*

*April 5, 2008*  
**Fox River**  
 George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*

*April 6, 2008*  
**Dammed DuPage—West Branch DuPage River**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*April 6–12, 2008*  
**NE Iowa Streams—Scout and Cleanup**  
 Al Donaldson, 319 277-3194  
*alandonaldson@sprintmail.com*

*April 9, 2008*  
**Mid-Week Paddle Gang Season Opener - Fox River**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*

*April 12, 2008*  
**West Branch Du Page River**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*April 13, 2008*  
**Des Plaines**  
 Andy Cocallas, 847-830-4877  
*acocallas@sbcglobal.net*

*April 13, 2008*  
**Des Plaines River Clean-Up**  
 Paul Klonowski, 847-687-2477  
*pklonowski@comcast.net*

*April 19–27, 2008*  
**4th Annual Northeastern Iowa Rivers Follies**  
 Al Donaldson, 319-277-3194  
*alandonaldson@sprintmail.com*

*April 19, 2008*  
**DuPage River**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*April 19, 2008*  
**Introduction to Paddling Workshop**  
 Bill Kessler, 708-547-5314  
*kslr@aol.com*

*April 19–20, 2008*  
**Tippecanoe River**  
 Jerry Emerson, 219-662-1296

*April 19–20, 2008*  
**Wisconsin Whitewater**  
 Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371  
*chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net*

*April 20, 2008*  
**Mazon River**  
 Sherri Graham 630-393-0383  
*canoen1@sbcglobal.net*

*April 23, 2008*  
**Des Plaines—Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*

*April 26, 2008*  
**Earth Day Celebration**  
 Mark Morrall,  
*morrall@t6b.com*

*April 26, 2008*  
**Fox River**  
 Steve Kirchen, 630-539-1866  
*stevenkirchen@sbcglobal.net*

*April 27, 2008*  
**DuPage River**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*

*May 3, 2008*  
**Badfish**  
 Linda Gebhard, 630-466-7093  
*l-gebhard@sbcglobal.net*

*May 3, 2008*  
**Fox River, Wine on the Fox**  
 George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*

*May 3–7, 2008*  
**UP Michigan Rivers**  
 Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371  
*chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net*

*May 7, 2008*  
**West Dupage—Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*

## Tentative Trip List continued

- May 10, 2008  
**Middlefork of the Vermilion**  
 Larry Tennyson, 630-497-2516  
*eltennyson@comcast.net*
- May 10, 2008  
**Moving Water I**  
 Steve LaPorte, 630-665-5707  
*stevlaporte@earthlink.net*
- May 10, 2008  
**Pecatonica River**  
 Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
*lbutler9@juno.com*
- May 10, 2008  
**Fox River Clean-up**  
 George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*
- May 11, 2008  
**Mazon River**  
 Sherri Graham 630-393-0383  
*canoen1@sbcglobal.net*
- May 17–18  
**Chain O'Lakes/So Branch Elkhart River, Indiana**  
 Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296
- May 17, 2008  
**I & M Canal**  
 Dave Watts, 630.552.1172  
*paddlingcouple@att.net*
- May 17, 2008  
**Vermilion River**  
 Janice Wellborn, 708-848-6026  
*janwellborn@hotmail.com*
- May 18, 2008  
**Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon**  
 Ray Ziemer  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*
- May 21, 2008  
**Nippersink Creek - Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*
- May 24, 2008  
**Mecan River**  
 Linda Gebhard, 630-466-7093  
*l-gebhard@sbcglobal.net*
- May 24, 2008  
**Pecatonica River—8 or 16 miles**  
 Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
*lbutler9@juno.com*
- May 24–26, 2008  
**Southern Indiana Rivers**  
 Brad De Ark, 847-494-3830  
*bdeark@msn.com*
- May 26–June 1, 2008  
**Scouting—Waupaca, Upper Mecan, Crystal, Little Wolf, Plover**  
 Linda Gebhard, 630-466-7093
- May 31–June 1, 2008  
**Waupaca River, WI**  
 Steve Kirchen, 630-539-1866  
*stevenkirchen@sbcglobal.net*
- June 4, 2008  
**Kishwaukee—Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*
- June 6, 2008  
**Windy City Kayak Symposium**  
 Geneva Kayak Center  
 630-232-0320
- June 7, 2008  
**DuPage River Sweep**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*
- June 7, 2008  
**Fawn/Pigeon Rivers**  
 Paul & Alice Clifford,  
 815-886-2554  
*Pclifford38@hotmail.com*
- June 7, 2008  
**Geocache paddling**  
 Randy Hermanson, 815-403-4488  
*forchst78@yahoo.com*
- June 7, 2008  
**River Sweep DuPage River (Naperville)**  
 Kathi Landow, (630) 677-5672 c  
*rivermuse0427@yahoo.com*
- June 8, 2008  
**Nippersink Creek**  
 Bill Kessler, 708 547-5314  
*kslr@aol.com*
- June 14, 2008  
**Blues on the Fox**  
 Ray Ziemer, 630-836-0086  
*rgziemer@worldnet.att.net*
- June 14, 2008  
**Sugar River**  
 Linda Gebhard, 630-466-7093  
*l-gebhard@sbcglobal.net*
- June 15, 2008  
**Pecatonica River, 8 or 15 miles**  
 Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
*lbutler9@juno.com*
- June 18, 2008
- South Branch of the Kishwaukee River—Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*
- June 20–22, 2008  
**Kickapoo River, WI**  
 Steve Kirchen, 630-539-1866  
*stevenkirchen@sbcglobal.net*
- June 21, 2008  
**DuPage River**  
 George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*
- April 5, 2008  
**Kankakee River**  
 George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*
- June 28, 2008  
**Bark River**  
 Steve Kirchen, 630-539-1866  
*stevenkirchen@sbcglobal.net*
- June 28–29, 2008  
**Wisconsin Whitewater**  
 Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371  
*chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net*
- June 29, 2008  
**Pecatonica River—8 mile paddle**  
 Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
*lbutler9@juno.com*
- July 2, 2008  
**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
 Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
*mtury@sbcglobal.net*
- July 11, 2008  
**Des Plaines**  
 Andy Cocallas, 847-830-4877  
*acocallas@sbcglobal.net*
- July 12–13, 2008  
**Little Manistee**  
 Peg Strobel/Bill Barclay  
 708-386-1371  
*peg.strobel@sbcglobal.net*
- July 12–20, 2008  
**Michigan Rivers**  
 Joan Taylor, 847 328-2628  
*taylorjr@aol.com*
- July 12, 2008  
**Pecatonica River**  
 Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
*lbutler9@juno.com*
- July 13, 2008  
**Fox River**  
 George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
*geo4747@yahoo.com*

July 16, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

July 18–20, 2008

**Kickapoo / Wisconsin / Mississippi / Wyalusing**  
Steve LaPorte, 630-665-5707  
stevlaporte@earthlink.net

July 26, 2008

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

July 27, 2008

**Canoe Orienteering Meet**  
Michael Collins, 847-673-7283  
michael@canoecouple.net

July 27–August 2, 2008

**Great River Rumble!**  
708-747-1969  
info@riverrumble.org

July 30, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

August 2, 2008

**Rock River John Deere Museum**  
Randy Hermanson, 815-403-4488  
forchst78@yahoo.com

August 2–3

**Wisconsin River Luau**  
Sherri Graham 630-393-0383  
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

August 8–10, 2008

**Intro to Wilderness Canoe Tripping**  
Dan Benthall, 630-208-8249  
DBthal@comcast.net

August 9, 2008

**Pecatonica River—7 miles**  
Lee Butler, 815-232-5340  
lbutler9@juno.com

August 13, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

August 16, 2008

**Kishwaukee River**  
Mark Morrall,  
morrall@t6b.com

August 16, 2008

**Fox River Clean-up**  
George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
geo4747@yahoo.com

August 23, 2008

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

August 23–24, 2008

**Race for the Rivers and Clean Water Challenge**  
Charlene Waggoner, 636-379-6333  
info@racefortherivers.org

August 23–24, 2008

**Wisconsin Whitewater**  
Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371

August 23, 2008

**Kankakee River**  
Sherri Graham, 630-393-0383  
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

August 24, 2008

**Kankakee River**  
Sherri Graham, 630-393-0383  
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

August 27, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

August 30–September 1, 2008

**Kickapoo**  
Joan Taylor, 847 328-2628  
taylorjrs@aol.com

August 30–September 1, 2008

**Namekagon River, WI**  
Sherri Graham 630-393-0383  
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

September 5–7, 2008

**Midwest Freestyle Symposium**  
Paul Klonowski, 847-687-2477  
pklonowski@comcast.net

September 6–9, 2008

**Current & Jack's Fork, MO**  
George Stenitzer, 630-215-6751  
geo4747@yahoo.com

September 10, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

September 13–14, 2008

**Pine River**  
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel,  
708-386-1371  
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

September 16, 2008

**Des Plaines**  
Andy Cocallas, 847-830-4877  
acocallas@sbcglobal.net

September 24, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

September 27–28, 2008

**Kickapoo River**  
Sherri Graham, 630-393-0383  
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

October 4–5, 2008

**Fawn/Pigeon Rivers**  
Paul & Alice Clifford,  
815-886-2554  
Pclifford38@hotmail.Com

October 4–13, 2008

**Michigan Rivers**  
Joan Taylor, 847 328-2628  
taylorjrs@aol.com

October 4–5, 2008

**Wisconsin Whitewater**  
Peg Strobel/Bill Barclay  
708-386-1371

October 8, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

October 11–12, 2008

**St Francis**  
Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371

October 14, 2008

**Des Plaines**  
Andy Cocallas, 847-830-4877  
acocallas@sbcglobal.net

October 18–19, 2008

**Current River, Missouri**  
David & Mary Stjern  
217-544-2703  
DStjernLaw@sbcglobal.net

October 22, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

November 5, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

November 19, 2008

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**  
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net

**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 Melinda Tury, 18 Fallbrook Drive, Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139

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:  
a paper copy of the newsletter?  Yes  No  
an electronic copy of the newsletter?  Yes  No

# Spring Dinner

**Saturday, March 15, 2008**

**The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm  
Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois  
5:00 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour  
6:00 PM Dinner**

Note: Board meeting at 4:00 PM; all members invited)

**J**oin us for an evening of celebrating the sport of paddling. Buffet dinner will include a choice of entrees, side dishes, coffee and dessert. Cash bar. For special dietary needs, contact Sherri Graham, 630-393-0383 [canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net).

Our special guest for the evening will bring new insights, adventures, and tales to get you pumped for the paddling season.

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.

**Prairie State Canoeists 2008 Spring Dinner  
Reservation Form  
Deadline: March 8**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults, \$26.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

15 Years & Younger, \$13.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Toddlers, \$6.50 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ for Dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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