



PSC Paddler

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

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 40 No. 5 August–September 2008

August 9: A Day of Opportunity

Whalon Lake Opening and East Branch DuPage Access

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will celebrate the grand opening of Whalon Lake, a premier public 80-acre fishing/boating lake in Bolingbrook on Saturday, August 9, 2008.

PSC Participation Needed
PSC will support this event with paddling demonstrations, information about canoeing and kayaking, and the club. Volunteers for the day are needed. The forest preserve district will provide a tent and other amenities for our use. Activities begin at 10:00 AM and run until 3:00 PM. The project is headed by Sherri Graham, who is organizing a short paddle trip on the nearby East Branch DuPage River as part of the festivities. More information is included in the trip announcement on page 4. Note: The East Branch trip is an attempt to raise awareness and expedite support from the FPDWC and other agencies (potentially Naperville Park District and DuPage County Forest Preserve District) that already have land along the river, but there are no “dedicated” canoe

launch sites. Sherri is attempting to obtain special access permits to do this.

Whalon Lake will provide free shoreline fishing and boat access as well as three off-leash free-run dog parks (one for small dogs), a picnic pavilion and a hiking trail. Gamefish, including largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish will be stocked in the lake. Boat launches will be provided for small watercraft, including fishing boats (trolling motors only), canoes, and kayaks. The hiking trail that will run through the preserve is part of the DuPage River Trail. This trail, to be developed from DuPage County to the Village of Shorewood along the river, is being constructed by a number of partners. Whalon Lake is located on Royce Road, 1 mile west of Route 53, in Bolingbrook.

Get on board for this exciting day for paddlers! Contact Sherri ASAP: 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

REI Names PSC “Club of the Month”

Prairie State Canoeists has been selected by REI to be the local Club of the Month for August. According to Margie Martinson, Outreach Specialist, “The honor includes recognition on the REI website, a sign in the front entry of the store, plus space for club brochures and a flyer. Your club is invited to present an in-store program on Local Paddling Destinations and to set up a table in the store one day to promote your club and activities.”

PSC will provide a demo at the Oakbrook Terrace REI store during August, date TBA. Volunteers are needed to speak about their favorite local paddling waters and share pictures and stories; more information will be available on line. Contact Sherri Graham.

Whence our River Rat? For the true story, see page 3.



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

From the Chair

WOW! How can it be August already?? It has sure been an unusual spring and summer, and the weather had a lot to do with it! We have seen the effects of severe storms with huge volumes of rain causing flooding all over the Midwest. It has raised awareness within our communities and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) about the dangers of high water and the need for notification of unsafe river conditions. The Illinois Paddling Council has initiated the IPC Alerts System to send out notifications of closures. The IPC is expanding this notification process by creating a Restricted Waters Task Force (RWTF), which aims to cultivate an agreement with IDNR regarding closures. Please let your PSC officers and board members know your thoughts about these actions and how PSC should react. If you have any questions about this, check out the IPC web site (<http://www.illinoispaddling.org>) or contact me directly.

We have a great opportunity to represent the paddling community at **The Whalon Lake Grand Opening on August 9!!** This is an expansion of Whalon Lake Forest Preserve in northern Will County that will be a great place to paddle. PSC has been invited to provide

a presence as an example of how diverse the paddling community is! We will present paddling demonstrations at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM. In order to give potential paddlers an insight into our experiences as paddlers and share our passion to be on the water **We need your participation! Please come to Bolingbrook on August 9 and share your enthusiasm with potential paddlers!** Check the trip schedule on the PSC web site for updates or contact me for details.

We are also planning a short trip on the East Branch of the DuPage River (which is adjacent to Whalon Lake) to coincide with this event for the purpose of raising awareness of this great resource for padding. Please contact me for details!

PSC Leadership. It's the time of year to think about officers and board members for next year! Our club requires very little effort, but volunteers are needed for board and officer positions for 2009! If you can serve, please come forward! Contact a current officer or board member.

Sooo...there's still plenty of time and opportunities to get out and paddle; check out the PSC Calendar!

syotrs! (see you on the river soon)

Sherri

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 or call
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

PSC Paddler

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

2008 Officers and Directors

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630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

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630-836-0086
rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

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Newsletter Deadlines	
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

Safety Corner, with Tom Lindblade

Lightning

On Saturday, we were on the Upper Sugar. The forecast was for a fifty percent chance of thunderstorms beginning in the afternoon. Those are odds that most of us take routinely, otherwise, we would probably never paddle, but the fact is that we were exposing ourselves to some risk of being hit by lightning.

Actually, that risk is pretty small. Tamia Nelson at Paddling.net writes: “Every one of the 94 victims killed by lightning in the US in 2006 and 2007 was out of doors at the time he (or she) was struck, and 25 were hiking, cycling, picnicking under trees, hanging out on the beach, or having fun on the water. It’s not a comforting picture. The risk to the individual is very small, of course. After all, cars kill some 40,000 people in the US every year, and each of us has something like

one chance in 150 of dying in a car crash. So lightning, which claimed only 94 lives in two years, is pretty low on the worry scale. But would you want to be one of the statistics? Me, neither.”

What she is saying is what I have always maintained: by far the most dangerous thing we do is put our boats on top of the car and drive. That said, though it doesn’t happen very often, there are some things we can do to make the odds of becoming a crispy critter even smaller. The Wilderness Medicine Newsletter recommends the following: “Follow the 30/30 rule. If the gap between lightning and thunder is less than thirty seconds, that means the lightning is within six miles; time to get off of the water and stay off for 30 minutes afterwards. When you get off, get at least 100 yards from the water’s edge. Get away from

anything tall (towers, the tallest trees), spread the group out, sit on something insulated (PFD) with legs crossed. Try to have only one point of contact with the ground.” (*Here’s one that is very difficult for us to actually do.—TL*) “Do not seek shelter under trees or open-roofed shelters without walls.” (*Bridges and picnic shelters fit into this category. I guess in a heavy downpour, I’ll take my chances under a bridge.—TL*) “If you have to stay on the water, prepare for the winds of the squall line and prepare to capsize.”

Stay Safe

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.

Call For Nominations Directors, Officers for 2009

Nominations are invited for PSC officers and directors for 2009. At the annual meeting on November 15, we will elect four directors and a treasurer for a two-year terms and a co-chair, who succeeds to chair in 2010. Please feel free to volunteer your time or nominate another member to serve. The future well-being of the club is in the hands of the board of directors. Contact any board member with your suggestions.

Correction

River Rat Patch Is By Tom Gorman

Whence our River Rat? We have received irrefutable evidence that the PSC River Rat Patch was designed by member Tom Gorman and not by Larry Leathers, as reported in a previous issue of *PSC Paddler*. Mr. Gorman tells us that an earlier version of the patch, designer unknown, was square and was deemed to be a somewhat ham-fisted figure. Gorman says he joined Prairie State Canoeists

in 1972, almost as soon as memberships were available, and subsequently designed the current version of the River Rat Patch. Gorman is a retired graphic artist and has served on the board of PSC.

Hundreds of PSC’ers proudly display your work, Mr. Gorman.



Trips and Events

Sat, Aug 2

**Rock River John Deere Museum
Grand Detour II.
Beginner, Flatwater**

**Randy Hermanson 815-403-4488
forchst78@yahoo.com**

Paddle the Rock River from Castle Rock to Grand Detour (no portage). Visit the John Deere Museum featuring Roy Underhill of The Woodwright Shop. That weekend will have several blacksmiths demonstrating their skills. Admission will be \$3 age 12+ at the museum. Grand Detour has a lot of historic buildings dating back to the early 19th Century. The voyageurs used this peninsula as a rendezvous point to trade with the local Indian tribes. This is a fascinating place for history buffs and those interested in the old crafts and trades as well as paddlers.

Sat, Aug 2

**Fox River
Chain O'Lakes State Park
Advanced Beginner**

Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

This is a re-schedule of the May 23 trip which was cancelled. We will paddle in a no wake zone and view a mostly natural shore line, birds, and blooming lotus. There is a boat limit so call the leader.

Sat, Aug 2–Sun, Aug 3

**Wisconsin River Luau
Beginner, River Camping**

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

Join us for the Third Annual Wisconsin River Luau! We will paddle two days on the wonderful Wisconsin River and camp on a sandbar overnight. The group dinner and campfire on Saturday evening will include tiki torches and tropical beverages (with umbrellas). Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and other theme apparel and props encouraged. Call or e-mail for details.

Fri, Aug 8–Sun, Aug 10

**Intro to Wilderness Canoe
Tripping, Sylvania Wilderness,
Michigan**

**Intermediate, Training
Dan Benthall 630-208-8249
DBthal@comcast.net**

Mark Morrall

Practice skills learned at the Wilderness Canoe Tripping classroom session. We will meet at the beautiful Sylvania Wilderness area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Focus will be on safety, navigation, portaging, camp skills, and fun.

Sat, Aug 9

**Whalen Lake Forest Preserve
Grand Opening! Bolingbrook, IL
Beginner**

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

We have been asked to help celebrate the Grand Opening of the 80 acre lake at this facility by: a) sharing our passion for paddling! b) providing a presence of paddlers on the lake; c) presenting two demos on canoeing and kayaking; and d) sharing information about PSC. We need volunteers for all of the above. Please check the web site (or contact Sherri) as more details get finalized. ALSO, look for the East Branch DuPage River Exploratory trip that coincides with this event.

Sat, Aug 9

**East Branch DuPage River
tbd to coincide with Whalen
Lake Forest Preserve Grand
Opening**

**Advanced Beginner, Exploring
Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net
please volunteer!**

The East Branch of the DuPage River is not highly accessible but is in the interest of several organizations for potential water trail development. It is a very small stream that runs right through suburbia with numerous parks

and forest preserves found along its banks, yet it does not yet have established access to the river. I am working with the Will County Forest Preserve District staff and other agencies to coordinate the needed support to conduct a trip in coordination with the Grand Opening event at Whalen Lake and raise awareness to its potential! We want to either launch from Whalen Lake, take a lunch break there or finish there in coordination with the Grand Opening event. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested. A tentative pre-trip scouting is planned for July 26 or 27.

Tue, Aug 12–Fri, Aug 21

**Quetico, Canada
Beginner/Intermediate
River Camping**

**Ted Nelson 847-217-4138
volhiker70@gmail.com**

I have a permit for up to 9 people to travel into Quetico starting on August 12th, so we will need to leave the 11th. It will be a three day trip to the top of Lake Kawnipi, which is one of the most beautiful lakes in the world in my opinion. We will stay there for three or four days and return. There will be multiple portages, so it is important to be in decent physical shape. Cost of the trip will be around \$300-\$500 including gas, tow to the park, fishing license, permit, and any personal items. We will be staying the night before and the night of return at our cabin in Minnesota.

Wed, Aug 13

**Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner**

**Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net**

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Trips and Events *continued*

Sat, Aug 16

**Kishwaukee River Clean-up
Belvidere to Cherry Valley
Beginner, Clean-up**

Mark Morrall
morrall@t6b.com
**Boone County Conservation
District**

Sat, Aug 16

**Fox River Clean-Up
Oswego to Yorkville, IL
Beginner/Intermediate, Clean-up**

George Stenitzer 630 215 6751
geo4747@yahoo.com

Kathi Landow 630-208-7742
rivermuse0427@yahoo.com

FOX CLEAN UP (Oswego to Yorkville) We will clean up the Fox around Oswego, working with the Oswego Environmental Commission and the Friends of the Fox River on their annual Fox River Rescue. A \$25 prize goes to the person who retrieves the most unusual item. Car shift at 9:30 AM from Violet Patch Park, on IL 25 a mile north of the intersection of IL 25 and US 34 (use parking lot along IL 25). We will clean up down to Saw Wee Kee Park. E-mail or call the leaders to participate.

Sat, Aug 23–Sun, Aug 24

**Race for the Rivers and Clean
Water Challenge**

**Missouri River (St Charles, MO)
Charlene Waggoner 636-379-6333**
info@racefortherivers.org

The R4R is a staged 2-day race from Washington, MO to the confluence. The CWC is a 20 mile race combined with learning about the Missouri River ecosystem. On-line registration at <http://racefortherivers.org> Funds raised support Greenway Network, Inc clean water education, research, restoration and recreation activities. The Race for the Rivers Festival is held in St. Charles, Missouri on August 23 with music and activities for all. (Not a PSC event)

Sat, Aug 23

**Kankakee River
Bird Park to State Park
Beginner**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

(Also see trip listing for Sunday, August 24. Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.) This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. We will paddle from Bird Park in Kankakee to the Class D Campground/boat landing just west of Warner Bridge Road/Kankakee River State Park. This stretch is known for more rocks, gradient, numerous islands and some beautiful limestone outcroppings. We usually stop to have lunch at the picnic tables in the State Park and later hike/wade the Rock Creek Canyon if there is interest. Directions: Take IL Rt 17 or IL Rt 113 to where they intersect on the west side of Kankakee at the Kankakee River. On the west side of the river, IL Rt 113 (Wall Street) ends at IL Rt 17. Go south on Wall Street to the very first driveway; turn left into Bird Park and follow the road to the left under the Rt 17 bridge to the boat landing. Carshift at 9:30 AM; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend-especially if you want to camp.

Sun, Aug 24

**Kankakee River
State Line to Momence
Beginner,**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

(Also see trip listing for Saturday, Aug 23. Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.) We will paddle from the IN/IL state line to Momence. This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. The view at the put-in is rather amazing. When you look upstream you see the Kankakee River Ditch in Indiana that was engineered by

the US Army Corps of Engineers. When you look downstream, you see the natural curves and shoreline to the portion in Illinois. The stretch has some cottages on it but is usually quiet. Directions: The put-in is at the intersection of State Line Road and the River at the North side (DO NOT try to access this from the south—the bridge is closed!). You may access State Line Road from IL Rt 17. Go south of Rt 17 approximately 3 miles to the closed bridge at the river. There is a large gravel parking lot on the left. Carshift at 10:00 AM; please call or e-mail if you plan to attend, especially if you want to camp.

Wed, Aug 27

**Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner**

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Sat, Aug 30–Mon, Sep 1

**Kickapoo River, Wisconsin
Advanced Beginner, Flatwater**

Joan Taylor 847 328-2628
taylorjr@aol.com

Peggy Jacobs

We will be camping at the Wildcat River State Park and it will be important to secure campsites early on this holiday weekend.

Sat, Aug 30–Mon, Sep 1

**Namekagon River
Trego to Riverside
Advanced Beginner, River
Camping**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

This river is part of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. We will paddle from the County K landing below the Trego Dam to Riverside landing of the St Croix River. We will be river camping at campsites that are maintained by the National

Trips and Events *continued*

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

Sat, Aug 30–Mon, Sep 1 **Wisconsin River**

Louis, Ruth, and Tyler Igyarto
847-587-7462

We intend to be river camping on sand bars for three days and two nights, so we will need to carry with us in our canoes all of the food, water and equipment necessary to sustain us for that period. Directions (from Chicago): Follow I-90 (N/W Tollway) north to Madison. Get off at the exit for US 12 & 18 west. Follow 18 west to Dodgeville. In Dodgeville pick up SR 23 north to SR 130 north. Follow 130 until it turns into SR 133 west. Follow 133 into Muscoda. Turn right (north) and proceed through town to Victora Park, which is located along the river, just before the bridge. Meet at the Muscoda boat launch in Victora Park for 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. At that time we will make the decision regarding where we will put in and take out in accordance with the current weather and river conditions.

Sun, Aug 31

Lower Des Plaines River Isle a La Cache

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater
Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com

Historic canoe route, Willow Springs to Isle a La Cache in Romeoville (approximately 12 miles). Put-in at Columbia Woods Forest Preserve canoe landing, downstream right from the Willow Springs Road Bridge, west side of Willow Springs Road, ½ mile north of Archer Avenue (Hwy 171). Entrance into Columbia Woods is between the railroad overpass and the gas station. Car shift at 9:30 AM

Tue, Sep 2–Sat, Sep 6

Various Rivers and Creeks Black River Falls Wisconsin Intermediate, Base Camping

Mark Morrall
morrall@t6b.com

We will be camping at the Black River Forest, Castle Mounds Campgrounds. If you are planning on joining us, you will want to go to their web site and make a reservation asap. I have been in contact with a Lacrosse area paddling club, they are helping me to decide what streams to paddle. Some of the smaller creeks will depend on water levels. Here's the list: Black River, Lacrosse River, Trempealeau River, Black River East Fork, Stockwell Creek, Morrison Creek, Bad Axe Creek, Robinson Creek, These streams range from wide flat water rivers, to narrow, fast moving creeks. If the water levels dictate, we will be paddling mostly the creeks. Intermediate paddling skills are a must, along with a boat with great turning capabilities.

Fri, Sep 5–Sun, Sep 7

Midwest Freestyle Symposium South of Cleveland, OH

Advanced Beginner, Training
Paul Klonowski 847-687-2477
pklonowski@comcast.net

Dates are confirmed. Learn the Art & Science of Precision Boat Control. You won't believe what some people can do with their canoes! It's been compared to figure skating, only when you fall down, you only get wet, instead of hurt! Carpools may leave Thursday & Friday AM, return Sunday PM, with some flexibility on either end.

Fri, Sep 5–Tue, Sep 9

Current, Jacks Fork rivers Missouri Ozarks, Round Springs Beginner/Intermediate, Base Camping

George Stenitzer 630 215 6751
geo4747@yahoo.com

CURRENT/JACK'S FORK The cleanest, clearest water in the Midwest invites you for a paddle. We will base camp at Round Springs, a campground with hot showers and laundry facilities, arriving Friday night, Sept. 5. We will paddle Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 6-9, along the Current and Jacks Fork—which are mostly spring-fed. We will choose segments of the river depending on water levels and weather, but plan to paddle the Current on Saturday and Sunday, the Jacks Fork on Monday and Tuesday. Plenty of wildlife to see among the Missouri Ozarks, as well as gorgeous caves, springs and spring branches to explore. We reserve a group campsite, so to make sure you have a place for your tent, email or call the trip leader. ABOUT RAIN: If it rains, we paddle anyway. If we see lightning at the start of the trip, we will not put on until it passes. If we see lightning on the water, we will seek shelter. Check the web site for updated information as the date gets closer.

Trips and Events continued**Sun, Sep 7****Upper Fox, Wisconsin
Beginner, Flatwater****John & Barb Shaw 630-961-3479**
theshawsjb@aol.com

This is an easy paddle through southern rural Wisconsin only about an hour from O'Hare. Forget the chores and join us! Directions: Take I-94 to Highway 50 in Wisconsin. Go west on Highway 50 to Highway 83N. Take 83N towards Burlington until you reach County Highway JB (Approximately 2.3 miles). Go east (right) on JB to the bridge (0.2 mile). PFDs are required, dump clothes always recommended. Carshift at 9:30 AM sharp.

Wed, Sep 10**Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner****Melinda Tury 630-894-2285**
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Sat, Sep 13–Sun, Sep 14**Pine River, Michigan
Beginner/Intermediate
Base Camping****Bill Barclay, Peg Strobel 708-386-1371**
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net
Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554
*pclifford38@hotmail.com***Sun, Sep 14****Rock River****Oregon to Grand Detour****Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821**
grabick@sbcglobal.net
9:30 carshift.**Tue, Sep 16****Des Plaines, Libertyville****Beginner****Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877**
acocallas@sbcglobal.net
E-mail for details. This will be an afternoon-evening trip.**Wed, Sep 24****Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner****Melinda Tury 630-894-2285**
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Sat, Sep 27–Sun, Sep 28**Kickapoo River****Ontario, WI****Advanced Beginner****Base Camping****Sherri Graham 630-393-0383**
*canoen1@sbcglobal.net***John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316**
canucamp@sbcglobal.net

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

Sat, Oct 4–Sun, Oct 5**WI whitewater****Intermediate, Whitewater****Peg Strobel/Bill Barclay 708-386-1371**
Kasey Culbertson 608-222-0746**Sat, Oct 4–Mon, Oct 13****Michigan Rivers****Lower Michigan****Advanced Beginner, Flatwater****Joan Taylor 847-328-2628**
taylorjr@aol.com

Rivers include Pine, Sturgeon, Jordon, Pigeon and maybe others depending on water levels.

Sat, Oct 4–Sun, Oct 5**Fawn/Pigeon Rivers, IN****Beginner, Base Camping****Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554**
*pclifford38@hotmail.com***Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296**

We will be camping at Riverside Campground east of Shipshewana on IN Rt 20. Depending on water levels, it will be decided on which rivers we paddle. Car shift from campground on Sat will be at 9:30 AM sharp, Chicago time, and on Sun when we are ready. Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday evening for an Amish dinner. Directions: Take the Indiana Tollway I-80/90 east to IN Rt 13, south on 13 to IN 120. East on 120 for 9 1/4 miles to 450 West. North on 450 for 1/4 mile, over bridge and left into the campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call the leaders, evenings, prior to the trip (Thursday latest).

Sat, Oct 4**Evening Paddle on the Fox River****Oswego 175th Anniversary Event****Advanced Beginner, Flatwater****George Stenitzer 630 215 6751**
geo4747@yahoo.com

Calling all canoes and kayaks! Oswego is celebrating its 175th anniversary, including a canoe landing at Hudson Park. We will put in below Montgomery Dam in the evening, exact time to be determined for a paddle down to Hudson Crossing Park in Oswego. We are landing near a couple of restaurants and will have a communal meal afterwards.

Trips and Events continued

Wed, Oct 8

Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Sat, Oct 11–Sun, Oct 12

St Francis, Missouri
Intermediate, Whitewater
Bill Barclay 708-386-1371
Peg Strobel

Tue, Oct 14

Des Plaines, Libertyville
Advanced Beginner, Moonlight
Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877
acocallas@sbcglobal.net

E-mail for details/night paddle.

Sat, Oct 18–Sun, Oct 19

Current River, Missouri
Van Buren, MO
Beginner/Intermediate
Base Camping
David & Mary Stjern 217-544-2703
DStjernLaw@sbcglobal.net

A basecamping trip co-sponsored by Mackinaw Canoe Club from Big Spring Campground which features the largest spring in Missouri and one of the largest in the world. We hope to paddle the Current from Powder Mill to Big Spring, about 15 miles each day, although shorter distances may be available. Mary and David will contribute a main course for a communal dinner on Saturday night to all paddlers who let us know in advance that they are interested. Please contact David Stjern (work:217-544-2703; home: 217-546-6474).

Wed, Oct 22

Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Wed, Nov 5

Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

Sat, Nov 8–Sun, Nov 9

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
Beginner

Igyartos 847-587-7462

This year's Dells trip will be back at the beautiful Wisconsin Dells stretch of the Wisconsin River. In the past, Mother Nature has handed us cold weather, wind, rain and/or snow every bit as often as we've had 70 degrees and sunshine. So, regardless of the forecast, come prepared for whatever she may hand us. There will not be an organized dinner on Saturday night. We will be camping at Mirror Lake State Park and leaving from there both days at 9:00 AM. Directions: Drive north on I-90/94 to the Wisconsin Dells. Exit south onto US Rt.12. Proceed south approximately one mile to Fern Dell Road. Turn right (west) and proceed to the entrance to Mirror Lake State Park. The signs for Mirror Lake are easy to follow.

Sat, Nov 15

Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner
Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Save this date for this always exciting annual event.

Wed, Nov 19

Mid Week Paddle Gang
TBD water levels permitting
Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check the web site for further details.

New and Renewed Members

**Asbury, William & Darlene
Bobby, William, Ian**
864 Poplar
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-759-6766
dirtyratbill@hotmail.com

Capps, Steve
P.O.Box 4364
Wheaton, IL 60189
630-263-3803
glissader@gmail.com

Defalco, Anthony & Chris
1521 Winnetka Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847-302-8558
adefalco33@aol.com

Denton, Bill
145 Berkshire Road
Waterloo, IA 50701-4003
319-232-7365
www.diverdent@yahoo.com

Gooche, Dennis
10S200 Havens Drive
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-981-1226
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**Grys, Robert
Michael**

**Liechty, Mark
Laura Hostetler**
1104 Clarence Ave
Oak Park, IL 60304-2010
708-445-9156
liechty@uic.edu

**Naprstek, David & Anita
Jim, Elizabeth**
dnaprstek@ameritech.net

**Ouimet, Karen
Mark Rasmussen Clare
Rasmussen**
259 Pembroke Lane
Mundelein, IL 60060
847-566-9672
kouimet@comcast.net

**Roberts, Christy
Kathleen Doherty**
3141 Wenonah Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402
708-484-2887
robertch@lewisu.edu

Schoppelry, Peter
528 Birchwood Rd
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-6288
PeterSchop@aol.com

Paddlers' Marketplace

Fiberglass Kayak for Sale
Excellent condition, yellow deck with white hull; Garage stored on Kayak
Cradles: \$1595
Contact: F. Luxem, 847.202.3853

Trips Reports

Des Plaines Confluence Loop

Channahan at Bridge Street access, May 4, 2008—Mother Nature blessed us with a beautiful day for 6 esteemed gentlemen and 1 charming young lady to enjoy a full day of paddling on 7 different waterways. Saw lots of successful fishermen, many kinds of waterfowl and turtles and thankfully very few pleasure boats. Also discovered a newly developed access at the confluence of the Dupage and the Des Plaines.

Brad De Ark

Nippersink Creek

Richmond to Spring Grove, May 3, 2008—Fifty degrees, rain, and wind, did not stop us from having a good trip. The water was at an ideal level. Our group consisted of seven paddlers in three canoes and two kayaks. There is a tree across the river between the bike path and route 31 that requires a portage. A little effort with some saws could change that. We saw a large hawk's nest next to the river. Thanks to Steve Voss for the car shift.

Bob Fenger

DuPage River

Plainfield to Shorewood, April 27, 2008—Just the four of us in solo boats defied the forecast of cold and rain, and this time we lucked out! Weather was fine all morning as we took a leisurely pace from Electric Park in Plainfield. Plenty of water, no sign of the gravel bars and little riffles that punctuate the river bed in lower water periods. Down the ever-narrowing greenway the DuPage still presents a buffer from suburban sprawl and provides a wildlife habitat along its banks. We were able to enjoy the budding trees and plentiful bluebells in the woods, and the antics of muskrats and herons on the water. After lunch at Riverside Parkway near Caton Farm Rd., we split into two groups to explore the branching channels of the river in Hammel

Woods. Take-out above the Shorewood Dam was just too soon. Four solo boats meant a reverse car shuttle, but we managed fine with everyone's cooperation. Thanks to Ken, Mike, and Steve for making it all go smoothly. Glad we took a chance on the weather!

Ray Ziemer

Badfish River

Cooksville, Wisconsin, May 3, 2008—Drizzle was predicted for the day. We got to be put-in in dry weather, which maybe led our hopes to continued dry. No such luck. Drizzle, wind, cold, several strainers and one log-jam across the river causing us to go complete river right and bump over. The water was fast and high for the Badfish. The Yahara, which the Badfish empties into, was over the banks. Lunch was under a bridge for some dry time. But I was told everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously!

Linda Gebhard

West Branch Dupage river

Centennial Park, Naperville to Knock Knolls, May 10, 2008—Six kayaks set off on a beautiful day to paddle down the West Dupage River. There were lots of people out strolling along the river in downtown Naperville taking advantage of the nice weather. The Mallard ducklings and goose goslings have hatched and were a delight to see. We all wanted to take a few of the ducklings home with us they were so cute. Water levels were just about perfect although we did do some scraping but no one had to walk except in one area. The cfs was running at about 150 so the trip to Knock Knolls was a fairly quick one. Wildlife seen were ducks, geese, turtles, one either a large beaver or muskrat - all we saw was a large splash, brown back, and an impressive wake! The migratory birds are making their way through our area so we were treated to a rose breasted grosbeak, scarlet

tanager, white crowned sparrows, night heron, etc. Of course the great blue heron accompanied us down the river. The blue bells and violets blooming along the shore were spectacular. A very enjoyable trip enjoyed by everyone! Thanks, Claude, for the reverse car shift!

Melinda Tury

Moving Water I - DuPage River

Shorewood, May 10, 2008—The weather cooperated as twenty-seven students and ten instructors met at Hammel Woods for a day of instruction and practice. With that many vehicles in a small parking lot (shared with some fishermen), the car shift could have been a nightmare, but everyone showed up on time, Dan Benthall, Tom Richardson, Tracy Hunt and Steve Shapiro did a great job of organizing small groups and shifting them as soon as they were assembled, and the shift went as smoothly as any I have ever seen. While the car shift was going on, Bill Kessler handled the check-in and made sure that all waivers were signed, fees collected and information disseminated. In the meantime, Tim Richardson, Sherri Graham, Erik Sprenne and Dan Leigh made themselves available to people for help, advice and information as needed. All things considered, the part of the day that has the most potential to become disorganized remained on track, and allowed us to start the instruction ahead of schedule. After the usual shore instruction, we broke up into working groups, did our final gear checks and got on the water. The weather stayed reasonable all day, and the river level was nearly ideal for this activity. We had a mixture of students who wanted to fine-tune their skills and students who wanted to acquire them (and many in between). By any measure, everyone who participated in the clinic ended the day noticeably more skilled and self-confident than when they started. While it would

Trips Reports *continued*

be easy to credit the instruction and coaching, most of the credit goes to the individual participants, who made the effort to learn the maneuvers, practice them over and over until their arms ached, then practiced them some more. Wildlife sightings, while secondary, included mallards, herons, a red tailed hawk, and a lame deer. Unfortunately, I could not keep track of all of the many car shift drivers and return drivers, but I thank you all. We could not have even begun the day without your assistance. The instructors get the credit for taking their individual pieces of the job and making them happen. But most of all, my thanks go to the students, who showed up on time, brought with them their motivation, mindsets and sense of humor, and made this day the success that it was.

Steve LaPorte

Des Plaines

Lake County, May 8, 2008

Andy Cocallas

Fever River

Southwest Wisconsin, May 4, 2008—Bald Eagles, Mink, Otters, Cows, Bats.

Mark Morrall

Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Distillery Road, April 26, 2008.

Mark Morrall

Vermilion

Utica, May 17—Fabulous trip! Water was higher than I was used to on this scenic river, but just perfect conditions all around. Rapids were encountered at numerous places on the trip. Water was moving fast enough to make grabbing some eddies more challenging. Wildcat was pushier than I recall, causing me, and several others, to opt for portaging. Narrows were also a little on the wild side. We did have a few swims on this trip, but no one complained. We saw snakes

sunning on the rocks by the put-in, and had to wonder about what these three snakes were doing. Near the end of the trip we came upon a beautiful bird which I later learned was an Indigo Bunting—simply gorgeous. Three canoeists and four kayakers all agreed that a leisurely day on this river was worth the time and effort it took to get there.

Janice Wellborn

DuPage River

Hammel Woods, Shorewood, May 18, 2008—Our group included Jeff and Francene Andresen, Lynne McMackin, Robert Graham, Mike Rzepka, Linda Gebhard, and Becky Sells. Bob Tyler met up with the group for a good part of the trip. Most of the group had attended last week's Moving Water 1 class and were anxious to practice what we had learned last week. We all noted that the water was slightly higher than last week and the gauge indicated that was the case. A few of us spent a lot of time on the back ferry in slower and quicker water, and we all worked on our eddy turns and forward ferrys from the river bank eddys to rock eddys. Lunch was at the railroad trestle. After lunch, some of us played and honed our skills using the currents and eddys to work our way back up and down stream several times before moving on to the takeout. We saw numerous turtles along the way sunning themselves.

Francene Andresen

South Branch of the Kishwaukee River

Kirkland to Oakridge, May 17, 2008—A beautiful day to paddle brought out eleven people to paddle down a remote section of the South Branch of the Kish. We had one complicated portage around a huge downed tree that was just in front of an island where the channel splits into two. I thought I remembered to go left but everyone else chose to go right; wrong move—narrow tricky

spots with pushy currents along this channel caused three dumps! The banks along this stretch were covered with blue phlox, geraniums, violets, and buttercups in a beautiful spring display. We were fortunate to see a pair of bald eagles, a vulture, several hawks, a northern oriole, scarlet tanager, a black and white warbler, kingfishers, bluejays, OF COURSE, THE GREAT BLUE HERON, one green heron, and various ducks and geese. Overall a wonderful day paddling with wonderful people. Thanks to Susan and Murray for the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Nippersink

Glacial Park to Lyle C. Thomas Park in Spring Grove, May 21, 2008—

Due to a glitch on the PSC web site this was the trip that almost didn't happen. I had cancelled the trip the night before because I did not get any e-mails through our site. I had one person call and we needed to have three. Luckily the Andresen's called me in the morning and we decided to go as that would make the three necessary for a safe trip. Good thing! We ended up having eight people and had a wonderful trip down the Nip! Everyone managed to stay in their boats even though we did play around a bit! The river is clear of river spanning obstructions so only steering around the edge strainers was necessary. Wildlife seen was at a minimum: kingfishers, orioles, geese, red-wing blackbirds, kingbirds, finches, a vulture, hawks, and of course, the great blue heron were seen along the way. We had one unusual snake encounter—a great northern water snake "couple" was "X rated" on a log! Very pretty coloration on the larger one with rusty red banding and a triangle shaped head. They are non poisonous but rather aggressive if disturbed. Thanks to my car shifters Boyd and Bruce!

Melinda Tury

**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

Looking Forward

Summer Picnic Date TBA

Intro to Wilderness Tripping Fri-Sun, Aug 8-10

Whalen Lake Opening Sat, Aug 9

Fall Dinner Sat, Nov 15

Save the Date!

Saturday, November 15

Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner

Details in the next issue

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, IL 60163.

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

Steve LaPorte
140 Arrowhead Trail
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
630-665-5707

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.