



PSC Paddler

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

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 42 No. 2 February–March 2010



Iony Harrison

In This Issue

- Spring Dinner
- February Social
- From the Chair
- Picnic Donors
- Canoecopia
- Dam Rule Sinks
- Trips and Events
- Tentative Trip List
- Trip Reports
- Application Form
- Future Events

Our Annual

Spring Dinner Pot-Luck!

Saturday, March 20

Izaak Walton Home, Elgin

Social Hour 5 PM, Dinner at 6 PM

Entertainment at 7 PM

What to bring:

Your own (non-alcoholic) beverage

Your own dinner service (silverware, plate, cup)

Food to share (entree, side dish, salad, or dessert)

Please contact Kathi Landow at 630-208-7742, rivermuse0427@yahoo.com, so we can organize the event. Tell us who is coming and what you're bringing, get a suggestion, or ask questions. As the menu evolves, we will keep you informed by e-mail.

And tonight's entertaining guest is . . . YOU!
Get out those photos and slides of your favorite trip(s) and share (best if you put them on a disc), and coordinate this with Kathi, too.

Directions: Izaak Walton Home, 899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL. From I-90, take Route 25 south for about 3 miles and turn left onto Jay Street. From Route 20, go north on Route 25 for 3 blocks (caution: follow Route 25 signs carefully), turn right onto Jay Street and proceed to the end of the street.

JOIN US FOR PSC'S 40TH YEAR! If you see a notice about MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL next to your name below, it is time to renew your membership for 2010. 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.

February Social

John's Pizza

100 E. Lake Street in Addison, Illinois, 630-834-3361

Beat the winter doldrums! Come on out and enjoy an evening of fun and laughter with all your PSC friends! John's Pizza has a pizza, pasta, salad, fruit, and dessert buffet for \$9.95 all you can eat (not including beverages)!

John's is conveniently located off I-355 and the Eisenhower extension. If we have enough people we will have our own room. Please meet at 6:30. E-mail or call if you can come please!

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

Prairie State Canoeists
c/o Marcelle Fahr
1253 Penny Lane
DeKalb, IL 60115

From the Chair

During this brief hiatus from paddling, we have many paddling activities to enjoy together. Our January social will be behind us when this newsletter reaches you, but our February social event, hosted by Melinda Tury, is just ahead. In March, we will return to the Izaak Walton Home in Elgin for our spring general meeting and potluck. These informal gatherings may be good opportunities for you to invite guests interested in becoming members.

In March, our club will again participate in Canoeconia in Madison, Wisconsin. This offers a great opportunity to check out new gear available from a wide range of vendors, attend presentations by experts that provide new insights into techniques and new paddling destinations, and to visit with old friends. I encourage everyone to assist in staffing our booth for a brief period. Typically, we sign up new members at this paddling trade show.

Consider encouraging prospective members to visit the show with you. This event builds enthusiasm is both old and new paddlers.

New this year, Rutabaga will sponsor a Rendezvous on Saturday evening for members of all clubs participating in the show. This is

a chance to meet paddlers from throughout the Midwest and to exchange ideas on club activities and discover new paddling destinations.

Details on each of these events appear in this newsletter.

In this issue, and on our web site, you will find trips already posted from late March through early November. We just barely have time for a few social events between paddling seasons. And, with some early warm weather, we may have earlier trips added.

I hope to see everyone at these winter events. In the meantime, I hope everyone is enjoying skiing, snowshoeing and other outdoor activities. I am so enthused about winter sports that I just shipped my daughter's ice skates to her home in Central Australia—in their summertime—something that seems about as likely as taking a dog's temperature in church.

As the season begins in earnest in the spring, I encourage each of us to promote our club by inviting prospective members as guests on our trips, handing out our club pamphlet to likely suspects at launch sites, and asking your local paddle shops to distribute our pamphlets.

Tom Croak

In Memorium

Barb Deuel

1927–2009

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
December—January	November 1
February—March	January 1
April—August	March 1
Sept—Nov	September 1

PSC Paddler is published four 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 1253 Penny Lane, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

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>

2010 Officers and Directors

Chair

Tom Croak, Deerfield
847-948-8794
paddler6@earthlink.net

Co-Chair

Dave Watts, Plano
630-552-1172
paddlingcouple@att.net

Secretary

Melinda Tury, Glendale Heights
630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Marcy Fahr, DeKalb
815-757-2696
marcy.fahr@ge.com

Directors

John Anderson, Lombard
glydr@sbcglobal.net

Brad DeArk, St Charles
bdeark@msn.com

Jeff Andresen, St Charles
fjresen@yahoo.com

Mike Rzepka, Tinley Park
mocassin@sbcglobal.net

Regina Watts, Plano
paddlingcouple@att.net

Vic Hurtowy, Glenview
vichurtowy@yahoo.com

Tom Lindblade, Rockford
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net

Steve Sinderson, Elmhurst
steve@woodlandplastics.com

Webmasters

Milt Levenberg, Libertyville
847-680-1223

milt@prairiestatecanoeists.org

Sherri Graham, Warrenville
630-393-0383

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Training Coordinator

Steve LaPorte, Carol Stream
630-665-5707

stevelaporte@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor

William Kessler, Berkeley
708-547-5314

kslr@aol.com

Assistant Editor

Michael Collins

A 21-Paddle Salute

To these donors and volunteers who helped make our Pedal, Paddle, and Picnic a great success.

LL Bean

Skokie

Northwest Passage

Wilmette

Offshore Marine

Vernon Hills

Great Lakes Kayak

Lake Bluff

Freeman's Sports

Yorkville

Lindstrom Chiropractic Clinic

Aurora

LL Bean

South Barrington

REI

Schaumburg

Cabelas

Hoffman Estates

Gander Mountain

Geneva

Geneva Kayak Center

Geneva

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Alliance

Joliet

Erehwon

Bannockburn

Illinois Paddling Council

Bob Graham

Mark & Merri Morrall

VOLUNTEERS

Brad DeArk, Picnic Czar

Alyssa Aavang, Picnic Czarina

Regina Watts

Maureen Megner

Margy Levenberg

Ray Ziemer

Tom Lindblade

Tom Croak

Joan Taylor

Bill Kessler

Randy Hermanson

Steve LaPorte

Stan Popelar

Bob Graham

PSC Events At Canoecopia, March 12–14

Hello, Fellow Paddlers

I am looking for PSC members to volunteer one or two hours to staff our booth at Canoecopia, March 12–14 in Madison. I can be contacted at 630-552-1172 or at paddlingcouple@att.net. Please let me know which day and time you are available. Available hours are Friday, 4:00–9:00 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM–6:00 PM; and Sunday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM.

Regina Watts

Rendezvous Pour Vous

The Illinois Paddling Council will host the first annual Paddling Club Rendezvous at Canoecopia on March 13th. Mark your calendars for this Saturday evening event from 5:30–7:00 PM in the Superior Room at the Clarion Hotel adjacent to the Alliant Energy Center.

The Rendezvous is an opportunity for paddling club members from all over the Midwest to get together to network, share favorite paddling destinations, plan joint activities, recruit new members, and just get to know each other over pizza and soda. Everyone is invited.

Controversial Dam Safety Rule Sinks

Over the weekend of January 9–10, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources's proposed Dam Safety Rule died. A number of conditions contributed to its demise:

- It did not fulfill the legislative mandates set forth in the enacting law;
- It was in violation of provisions of the Rivers Lakes and Streams Act that protect the public's right to recreate on Public Waters;
- It contained no provisions for warning the public about criminal penalties for violation of exclusion zones;
- The procedure for amending the list of affected dams was unreasonable, as were procedures for requesting permanent and temporary variances.

The main affliction that caused its death, though, was the inability to get the rule approved in the required

180 day period after JCAR objected to the rule last July 14.

The paddling community objected to this proposed rule because of its inadequacies, not because we are opposed to a rational dam safety program. Offers were extended to the DNR to help them draft a more rational administrative rule, but the DNR was not willing to involve the paddling community in the process.

It should be understood that the enacting legislation is still in place, so it's possible that another proposed rule could be written, though such rule would have to start the process from the beginning, with a public comment period.

Thanks to all who participated in this process.

Please be safe when paddling near dams!

Erik Sprenne

Trips and Events

Sat, Feb 20

February PSC Social

John's Pizza, Addison

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567

mtury@sbcglobal.net

See page 1.

Sat, Mar 27

Nippersink Creek

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Steve Shapiro 847-791-5875

steveshapiro2@sbcglobal.net

Call one of the leaders for details.

Sat, Apr 3

Introduction to Paddling

Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora
Beginner, Training

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314

kslr@aol.com

Nopreviousexperienceisnecessary!
Join us for this skill-building session led by American Canoe Association certified instructors. Focus will be on safety, efficient paddling, and basic strokes and maneuvers on flat water. Bring your boat (canoe or kayak), PFD, paddle, dump clothes and a lunch. (Some extra boats and equipment may be available on request.) Fees: \$10.00 per person for instructional costs. If you are not a member of the American Canoe Association (www.americancanoe.org), an additional \$5.00 is required. Contact us to reserve your space! Further details will be sent out to participants before the event.

Sat, Apr 3

West Branch Dupage River

St. Charles Rd. to Mack Rd.

Advanced Beginner

Ray Ziemer 630-669-7831

rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

The narrow, twisting upper section of the West Branch can be challenging or tranquil, depending on the water level, comfortable or invigorating, depending on the

weather. Winding mostly through DuPage forest preserves, we'll enjoy the woods of early spring and look forward to a few riffles along the way. Call leader for updates and details. Car-shift 9:30 from St. Charles Road in Carol Stream.

Wed, Apr 7

Mid Week Paddle Gang, Fox River

S.E.B.A. Park in South Elgin to Ferson Creek Park in St. Charles
Advanced Beginner,

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567

mtury@sbcglobal.net

Come on out and join the Mid-Week Paddle Gang as we begin a new season of Wednesday paddles. We will put in at S.E.B.A. Park in South Elgin on Water Street, paddle to Ferson Creek Park on Rt. 31 in St. Charles and then have lunch at Salerno's afterward. PFD and dump bag required. Bring water and sunscreen. Car shift at 10 am. Please e-mail or call if you plan to paddle. Map to put in available upon request.

Sat, Apr 10

PSC Corps of Discovery

Small, fast moving stream somewhere in northern Illinois
Intermediate/Advanced,

Mark Morrall

morrall@t6b.com

Steve Voss

Tired of the same old trips on the same old rivers? Join us as we paddle streams that are seldom, if ever paddled by PSC. We'll be leading such trips throughout the season, starting with this one. This early season trip will be on a river that is dependant on the spring rains for its water. Likely candidates are Big Rock Creek, Little Vermilion River, Big Bureau Creek, and Carroll Creek. Our choice will depend on water levels at the time.

Because of this, our decision won't be made until just a few days prior to the trip. Although not classified as "whitewater" rivers, they can prove to be very dangerous for inexperienced paddlers. Regardless of which river we choose, solid moving water skills and a boat that can maneuver well in narrow, fast moving water is a must. There will also likely be some portages around blockages; some of these may be difficult. Because of the small size of these streams and the limited parking at the access points, there is a need for limiting the group size to around twelve boats. The date posted is likely to change as we get closer to spring.

Sat, Apr 10

West Branch DuPage River

McDowell Grove-Weigand Park,
Naperville

Advanced Beginner

Ray Ziemer 630-669-7831

rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

Paul Clifford 630-269-2554

Pclifford38@hotmail.com

Starting at picturesque McDowell Grove outside Warrenville, we will enjoy a pleasant paddle of usually-slow water to the historic center of Naperville. Be prepared to portage the notorious Fawell Dam, and to paddle a challenging riffle along Naperville's Riverwalk. After a few twists and turns, it's an easy paddle to Weigand Park at the south end of town. Call leaders for updates and details. Car-shift 9:30.

Tentative Trip and Event List for 2010

These are the trips and events listed on the PSC web site at this time. If you are planning to lead a trip that is not yet listed, please post your trip by March 9. A master trip list will be included in the 2010 PSC Directory, scheduled to be received no later than April 1. 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 and will be entered on the web site.

Hard-copy newsletters will not be published after April until the fall. Trips will continue to be posted on the web site where a printable list will be available. If you do not have access to the internet and would like hard copies of the trip lists sent to you, contact Bill Kessler.

<i>Fri, Jan 1</i> New Year's Day Paddle	<i>Sat, May 15</i> PSC Corp of Discovery	<i>Fri, Aug 6–Sun 8</i>
<i>Sat, Jan 9</i> Board Meeting	<i>Sat, May 15–Fri 21</i> Southern Wisconsin Rivers	Wisconsin River, 5th Annual Luau Trip!
<i>Sat, Jan 9</i> Trip leaders meeting	<i>Sun, May 16</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup	<i>Sat, Aug 7</i> Intro to Canoe Camping
<i>Sat, Jan 16</i> Des Plaines River	<i>Sun, May 16</i> DesPlaines River Canoe Marathon	<i>Wed, Aug 11</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang
<i>Sat, Jan 23</i> January Social	<i>Wed, May 19</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Nipersink Creek	<i>Sat, Aug 14–Sun 15</i> Canoe Camping
<i>Sat, Feb 20</i> February PSC Social	<i>Sat, May 22–Sun 23</i> Mecan River	<i>Sun, Aug 15</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup
<i>Sat, Mar 27</i> Nippersink Creek	<i>Sat, May 22</i> DuPage River Sweep (Clean-Up)	<i>Sat, Aug 21</i> Rock River
<i>Sat, Apr 3</i> Introduction to Paddling	<i>Sat, May 22–Sun 23</i> Tippecanoe River, Indiana (Winamac)	<i>Wed, Aug 25</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang
<i>Sat, Apr 3</i> West Branch Dupage River	<i>Sat, May 29–Sat, Jun 5</i> Third Annual Tacitus Hussey Memorial Trip	<i>Sat, Sep 4–Mon 6</i> Namekagon River
<i>Wed, Apr 7</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Fox River	<i>Wed, Jun 2</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang–North Branch of the Kishwaukee River	<i>Wed, Sep 8</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang
<i>Sat, Apr 10</i> PSC Corp of Discovery	<i>Fri, Jun 4–Sun 6</i> Blue River IN	<i>Fri, Sep 10–Sun 12</i> Midwest Freestyle Symposium
<i>Sat, Apr 10</i> West Branch DuPage River	<i>Sat, Jun 5–Sun 6</i> Fawn and Pigeon Rivers, Indiana	<i>Sat, Sep 11–Sun 19</i> Michigan Rivers
<i>Sat, Apr 10</i> West Branch DuPage River	<i>Wed, Jun 9–Wed 16</i> Week of N. WI rivers	<i>Sat, Sep 11–Sun 12</i> Pine River
<i>Sat, Apr 17–Sat 24</i> PSC Week in Iowa	<i>Sat, Jun 12</i> Sugar River, Wisconsin	<i>Sun, Sep 12</i> Pedal Paddle and Picnic
<i>Sat, Apr 17</i> DuPage River	<i>Sun, Jun 13</i> Kishwaukee New Members's Trip	<i>Sat, Sep 18</i> Des Plaines River
<i>Sun, Apr 18</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup	<i>Fri, Jun 18–Sun 20</i> Maquoketa River	<i>Wed, Sep 22</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Kishwaukee River
<i>Wed, Apr 21</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, South Branch of the Kishwaukee River	<i>Sun, Jun 20</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup	<i>Sat, Sep 25–Sun 26</i> Kickapoo River
<i>Fri, Apr 23–Sun 25</i> White Water Rafting	<i>Wed, Jun 30</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Desplaines River	<i>Sat, Sep 25–Sun 26</i> Fawn and Pigeon Rivers, Indiana
<i>Sat, Apr 24–Sun 25</i> Chain O'Lakes, South Branch Elkhart, Indiana	<i>Sat, Jul 3–Mon 5</i> Four Rivers Trip	<i>Sun, Sep 26</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup
<i>Sun, Apr 25</i> Sterling Lake Clean-Up	<i>Wed, Jul 14</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, TBD after looking at water levels	<i>Wed, Oct 6</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Pecatonica
<i>Mon, Apr 26–Sat, May 1</i> Current River	<i>Sat, Jul 17</i> Badfish Creek	<i>Sun, Oct 10</i> Des Plaines Confluence trip
<i>Sat, May 1</i> White River	<i>Sun, Jul 18</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup	<i>Sat, Oct 16</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup
<i>Sun, May 2</i> Kyte Creek	<i>Wed, Jul 28</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang	<i>Wed, Oct 20</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, Salt Creek
<i>Sun, May 2</i> Dammed DuPage, West Branch of the DuPage River	<i>Sat, Jul 31</i> Upper DesPlaines River Social Paddle	<i>Sat, Oct 30</i> Sterling Lake Clean-Up
<i>Wed, May 5</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang, South Kishwaukee		<i>Sun, Oct 31</i> Sterling Lake End of Season Cleanup
<i>Sat, May 8</i> Platte River		<i>Wed, Nov 3</i> Mid Week Paddle Gang Season Ender
<i>Sat, May 8</i> DuPage River		<i>Sun, Nov 7</i> Upper DesPlaines River Cleanup
<i>Sun, May 9</i> Grant River		
<i>Sun, May 9</i> Des Plaines Confluence trip		

Trip Reports

Sugar River

Brodhead to Avon, Wisconsin, July 18—Five boats had a wonderful paddle down the Sugar River enjoying the rare treat of a cool day in mid July. The always reliable Sugar River had plenty of water with a dept of 1.69 feet and good current of 459 cfs which ensured that no one had to walk. No river blocking strainers were encountered although there are some narrow spots requiring good boat handling skills. Bob T. rescued a power boat with his canoe when their motor had quit and they had drifted into a strainer. We also encountered a couple whos boat had tipped by another strainer but they did not require assistance. The race track was running races so it was a little noisy for about one mile of the trip but other than that, we had a very peaceful trip. Thanks Bob for taking me back to my car!

Melinda Tury

Rescue Workshop

Rock Cut State Park–Janesville dam, July 18—Twelve people in ten boats came out for the Rescue Workshop. The temperature could definitely have been better, and the wind blew us around the lake, but wet suits and enthusiasm abounded. (Besides, how many people need rescuing on a calm, sunny day with glass-like water?) At Rock Cut State park we worked on boat-over-boat rescues, reentry techniques and towing a swimmer. We did the moving water work at the Janesville dam. We practiced such skills as walking alone in current, walking in current with a partner and using a throw rope. Thanks to everyone who came out, made the workshop a success and were willing to provide such an important service, should the need arise.

Steve LaPorte

Fox River

South Elgin to Ferson Creek Park, St. Charles, July 22—Seven boats and seven paddlers had a leisurely paddle down the Fox to St. Charles. The weather cooperated and the rain held off until we were off the water and through with lunch. The Fox River Queen sternwheel paddle boat passed us on the river and we had one rude speed boat but other than a couple of fishing boats we had the river all to ourselves. I think half the Kane County population of “GBH’s” was on the river to greet us

along with a couple of egrets, blue jays, swallows, and other feathered friends. The carp were jumping in the shallows along with little minnows but we didn’t see any frogs or turtles. The water level was quite low (1.47 feet) so we did do a little scraping and had to pick our route carefully. After the railroad bridge the water got deeper and we did not encounter any other problems, and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Margy and Dave for helping with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

Des Plaines River

Van Patten Woods, July 25—The plan was to paddle on the Des Plaines River in Van Patten Woods, but the river was low and we didn’t want to paddle and hike. So we paddled the former gravel pits west of the river. Our leisurely paddle allowed the small group to get better acquainted and see a successful volunteer-maintained housing project—it houses Purple Martins.

Jerry Kolar

DuPage River - Hammel Woods to Channahon

Shorewood, Aug 1—Paddled through some light rain at times. Stopped for lunch at RR bridge and set-up a tarp to stay dry. We had 4 paddlers get out at Shepley Road and the rest continued to Channahon to the take-out.

Steve Sinderson

Salt Creek Clean-Up

Fullersburg Woods, Oakbrook, Aug 5—Today we had seven people who participated in cleaning up the section of Salt Creek from just above the dam at Graue Mill to just above the Rainbow bridge in Fullersburg Woods. All the usual trash of bottles, cans, fishing line, lures, bobbers, buckets, lawn chairs, tires, lawn tools, plastic bags, etc., were collected. Unusual items were a snow brush, sofa cushion, metal grate, lengths of heavy duty rope, and huge tarps. We were unable to remove a water heater and several loading flats the location of which were reported to the forest preserve district. A good muddy time was had by all, followed by lunch at Giordanos on 22nd. A BIG hug to my crew for a job well done!

Melinda Tury

DuPage River, St. Charles Rd. to Mack Rd.

West Chicago, Aug 8—I think the water level today was an appropriate minimum height for this section. Only one blockage that required in-boat scooting. The rest of the trip was free of blockages but often too shallow in spots. Many sightings of loons, ducks, and geese. One kayaker was struck in the arm by a flopping fish. The trip itself was pleasant, heavily wooded and peaceful.

Jason Henricksen

Fox River Clean Up

Yorkville to Silver Springs State Park, Aug 8—Only three kayaks turned out of the Clean Up, probably due to the hot humid conditions. But don’t believe that kayaks can’t pick up stuff. We hauled enough for more than a dozen people. First we started by cleaning the gravel area by the put in. We filled a five gallon bucket 5 times, then emptied it in a nearby dumpster. Then we floated down the river. We stopped part way to drop off trash to be picked up later. Then we continued to the park where we made a dent in another dumpster. We can be proud of a job well done!

Regina Watts

Salt Creek Lionwood Park to Graue Mill

Wood Dale to Oakbrook, Mon, Aug 10—The trip starts out with houses on either side but none-the-less quiet and peaceful. You will pass two golf courses; pay attention, there are two signs for paddlers designating spillways within the golf course. The first is navigable but the second has a 3-foot waterfall you must portage right. The portage is short and fairly easy. About a half an hour past Cricket Creek Forest Preserve you will see on your left a red sign with a red light on top of it, something to the affect that if the red light is flashing, then the 3rd St. Flood Stage Emergency Dam is I supposedly emptying water into the creek. I have never encountered this dam operating but would strongly advise portaging immediately. There is a 3rd dam marked on my Northeastern Illinois Water Trails map; check your local forest preserve for your copy or go to openlands.org. This dam was easily run with a fair amount of scraping. We stopped at Eldridge Park, had a quick lunch and chatted with two

fellow PSCers, Jim and Jan Fleming, who were scouting suitable put-ins. Great blue heron, cedar waxwings, sanderling, black-crowned night heron, green heron, chicadee, red-tailed hawk, bank swallow, purple martin, house wren, goldfinch, cormorant, mourning dove, flicker, song sparrow, bobolink, grackle, and lots of waterfowl. Plus two snakes, woodchuck, and a muskrat. Also witnessed a doe hanging out on the river bank and a fawn who never left the shore as she wondered curiously at us, allowing Jerry a photo. Thank you to Jerry and the PSC for successfully fulfilling everything I wanted to experience in joining a paddling club in just one afternoon. Total trip time was about five and a half hours.

Jason Henricksen

Salt Creek Paddle and Dinner

Cricket Creek FP, Addison to Eldridge Park, Elmhurst, Aug 12—We had a great 2-hour trip down the creek with one portage around the dam in Elmhurst. We had 7 at the put-in however one person who shall remain nameless ;-) locked her keys in the car and needed to call AAA to be let back in; needless to say we had to leave her behind to fend off the mesquitos by herself! As with almost all of our previous trips, we had the pleasure of sighting several blue heron, a beaver, and several families of ducks. Just after passing under the RR Bridge we encountered a small stainer and one of the two kayaks on the trip got hung up on a branch and went in. After making a quick exit they drained the boat and got back on the water in no time.

Steve Sinderson

Fox River Clean Up

Silver Springs State Park - Loon Lake, Thu, Aug 13—After a quick vote, it was decided that we would do the clean up around Loon Lake in the park since it was so hot and there is not much shade on that section of the river. This is the large lake in Silver Springs State Park. There were quite a few people in the park for a Thursday - including fishermen, young “campers” and a track team running around the lake. The area around the lake was in bloom with many wild flowers even Melinda could name them all. We had a pleasant lunch at Panera Bread afterward.

Regina Watts

West DuPage River

Centennial Park, Naperville to Knock Knolls Park, Naperville, Aug 19—Trying to beat the severe weather we ran this trip as a straight through paddle to Knock Knolls. “Mother Nature” smiled upon us and the storms held off until we were well off of the river. We had fifteen people and boats for a delightful paddle down the river. Our picture was taken quite often by people on the river walk. We saw hundreds of mallards, geese, song birds of every color and song, and, of course, the GBH! The fall wildflowers are starting to bloom with goldenrod and some asters being the most numerous. Eight of us had lunch after the paddle at Gino’s East. Delightful day with wonderful people. Thanks Leo and Bob for the car shifts!

Melinda Tury

Sugar River

Nelson Rd., Wisconsin to Two Rivers Park, Aug 29—Warm sun, cool breeze, good water levels and cfs, and wonderful company made for a perfect day of paddling on the Sugar River. Today we had fifteen paddlers do the approximately 15 miles from Wisconsin down to Two Rivers Park. No full river blockages were encountered which made for a relatively easy trip with the exception of the last half mile paddle up-stream on the Pec which had some people grumbling! Two turkey broods with poults, four sandhill cranes flying and two in a field, vultures up close and almost hit by my car on the car shift, hawks, lots of swallows and cedar waxwings, kingfishers, and, of course, the GBH were seen throughout the day. The fall wildflowers are out in bloom with nice displays of woodland sunflowers, the bright red lobelia and softer toned blue lobelia dominated the displays lining the shorelines. Always interesting is the jewel weed flowers and the mosses and lichens that are growing on the fallen tree trunks in the water. We also saw lots of paper wasp nests hanging over the river. The Sugar River, lined with deep conservation easements, is truly wild with lots of trees in the water and up welling springs, providing good practice in boat handling and making the trip more interesting. A big thanks to Susan and Steve for helping me with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

South Branch of the Kishwaukee River

Genoa to Kirkland, Sep 2—Today was a gorgeous, picture perfect day out on the water. We paddled the seldom used section of the South Kishwaukee from Genoa to Kirkland. The old put-in at the Russell Woods Nature Center is so badly eroded that it is no longer safe so we put in off of Madison Street at the community park just east of the bridge on Rt. 72 over the river. The depth of the river was at 2.5 feet with a cfs of 177; if it had been much lower you would probably have to get out and do some walking. As it was we did do some scraping in quite a few areas but no one had to get out and walk. We had ten boats evenly split between canoes and kayaks. This section of the Kish features long stretches of flat water interspersed with short little drops and lots of riffles. Most of the shoreline is heavily wooded with a few houses and farm fields. We saw lots of green herons, cedar waxwings, goldfinches, shorebirds, swallows, butterflies, frogs, one snake, dragon and damsel flies, and quite a few very talkative “GBH’s”! The fall wildflowers are now out and in bloom including woodland sunflowers, asters, foxglove, joe-pye weed, lobelia, vervain, and queen anne’s lace. Much thanks to Susan and Tom for helping me with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

Badfish Creek/ Yahara River

West of Edgerton Wisconsin, Sun, Sep 6—Twenty-seven paddlers came out to join us on the little Badfish Creek and the medium sized Yahara River; both of which are featured on our River Trails of Southern Wisconsin DVD. Although the large number of participants we had was a bit much to fit on such a small stream as the Badfish, other than a couple of swims under the limbo tree, everything seemed to go well. Many thanks go out to our carshiffters; Becky Sells, Glenn Rabick, Tom Lindblade, Mike McDonald, and our driver return Rick Flemming. Without them volunteering for this important duty, there wouldn’t have been a trip. We’ll see ya on the next river.

Mark Morrall

Salt Creek Paddle and Dinner

Cricket Creek FP, Addison to Eldridge Park, Elmhurst, Sep 9—We had a great 2-hour trip down the creek with one

Trip Reports continued

portage around the dam in Elmhurst. The first 1.5 hours was paddled in natural light, after the portage we put on lights for the last half hour of paddling. For anyone who has not paddled in the dark, the experience connects you with all your other senses. After the shuttle we headed over to the Elmhurst Public House for a well deserved meal.

Steve Sinderson

Fox River

Sheridan to Wedron, Thu, Sep 10—Nice float trip. Many birds were seen including great blue herons and several bald eagles, including one that swooped down over our group to about 8-10 feet over our heads! We also saw a sad wet possum in the water below one of the high limestone cliffs who had apparently fallen out of one of the trees overhead. And tons of turtles sunning themselves. Thanks to Melinda — Jim for the carshift — return ride.

Regina Watts

North Branch Kishwaukee River

County Line Rd. to Red Horse Bend on Laurenceville Road, Sep 12—Today we had a very leisurely, lazy paddle down the North Branch of the Kishwaukee River. The beautiful weather, pleasant company, and relaxing scenery made for a wonderful day on the water. The cfs of 194 with a depth of 1.52 made for quite a few scrapey spots, a few “walks”, and some drag overs but thanks to Steve K. and Claude’s help everyone made it through with little trouble. We had a lazy lunch on our usual sand/gravel bar where some of us would have liked to have stayed and had a nap. The fall wildflowers are out in full bloom with red lobelia, sunflowers, and asters being the most common. Red-tailed hawks, ducks, geese, songbirds, and of course the “GBH” were all observed along the way. Since we have not had rain in so long the water was very clear enabling you to see the fish swimming in the water. Turtles and frogs were seen sunning themselves but thankfully – NO SLITHER FRIENDS for a change! Thanks Mike and Larry for help with the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Pine River

Michigan, Sep 12-13—It was such a beautiful week-end that we all were sorry to see it end. The lunch stop on Sunday at the large sand hill we may

change in the future. The beach is disappearing and very mushy where you sink into the sand. A little further down stream on river left, there appears to be a nice beach area. Special thanks to Mike who car shifted us both days in his van.

Paul Clifford

Fox River, PSC Picnic

S.Elgin to St. Charles, Sep 13—After completing the “pedal” part of the Pedal, Paddle — Picnic, 6 cyclists exchanged their bikes for a paddle, along with 6 other paddlers. All enjoyed the short paddle and warm weather, especially playing in the powerboaters’ wakes.

Regina Watts

Nippersink Creek

Glacial Park to Lyle C. Thomas Park, Sep 16—Pretty, pretty, pretty says the Cardinal bird and that is just what we got from Mother Nature on this day paddling the Nippersink! We could have used a little more water because with a depth of 4 feet and a cfs of 98 we did do quite a bit of scraping and “shootching” but no one had to get out and walk. Thanks to Steve V. we did not have to portage around the newly beaver felled tree completely blocking the river in the prairie section as he got in the river and pulled everyone through while we did the limbo! Lunch was a leasurily affair at Pioneer Park. The sky was the most awesome blue with puffy cumulus clouds drifting by, crisp air, warm sun, and pleasant company! Sand hill cranes flew over as well as hawks, vultures, very loud bluejays, and one very ticked off kingfisher that repeatedly scolded at us down the river. Several large flocks of small songbirds (probably warblers) were seen in the berry bushes. Fall wildflowers are blooming in abundance with the goldenrods and asters being the most wide spread. Much thanks to Susan, John, and Margy for help with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

Mississippi River Back Waters Adventure

Savanna, IL, Fri, Sep 18—A group of 7 paddlers — 6 boats ventured onto the back water for a gorgeous early fall day on the water. Savanna Bay back water was lower than our scouting trip in June which made for some interesting paddling. The Midwest ‘dry’ spell took its toll on these waters, as the

deepest water encountered was around 12 inches, with the majority being 4-5 inches deep. The bottom, as one would expect, was Mississippi River mud and smelled the same. We spent a little over 2 hours on the water, taking our time to enjoy the breathtaking vistas of the Palisades and the back waters. The back waters was a new experience for most, but if you’ve been on the I—M or Hennepin Canals, it was similar. With the lower water level you had to be on constant guard of the “hidden” stumps that pervaded the bay. With the bright sunny afternoon there were not as many bald eagles as we expected, but there were plenty of white herons/egrets and a flock of American White Pelicans to photograph, as well as other birds. There was one paddler who got to fish without a pole—a small fish ‘flew’ into their kayak. For the brave souls who ventured onto the back water that afternoon, they were graced with the beauty (and smell) only a back water trip can provide. We were entertained at the take out with an ‘odd’ fellow who decided to launch his jet ski, we all muffled laughs upon his return from his short trip as smoke bellowed out of the ski and he literally pushed/walked it back to the dock. I guess he should have heeded the posted warning sign at the dock about the ‘EXTREMELY LOW WATER LEVELS’. Please don’t let this trip report sway you from returning to these waters: at adequate water levels, it provides an enjoyable exploration of the many channels and hidden islands that the Mississippi Back Waters offer.

Dave Watts

Maquoketa River, Supples Bridge to Royertown Canoe Access

West of Maquoketa, Iowa, Sep 19—A large group of 19 paddlers — 17 boats were blessed with another gorgeous early fall day on the water. We had 3-4 guests and some new members. Despite the ‘dry’ spell in the Midwest the water level and steady current was perfect for a brisk paddle down this beautiful stretch of the Maquoketa River in Iowa. We covered the 14.5 miles right at 5 hours with a nice lunch break and two other ‘leg stretch’ breaks. The Maquoketa was a new river for most, but we had the pleasure of sharing the water with a few experienced local paddlers. The river offered a sand/gravel bottom, low banks, ranged from deep hardwood forests to rolling pasture land. The

accesses used were excellent and the put ins were all well marked and easy to get to in Jackson County, Iowa. After a delayed start (large group, long drive, etc.) and the patience of the local crew, we knew we were in for a great day when a large bald eagle circled the put in not 20 feet above our heads. What a sight it was. The banks are lined with ‘hidden’ limestone outcroppings just beyond the forest and there were plenty of small caves if one watched the bluffs. From local reports, the fall colors on this stretch are gorgeous and early winter/late spring provides superb views of the bluffs. Wildlife was abundant, with the majority being the avian type. Bald eagles, osprey, herons, kingfishers, blue jays, etc. were constant paddling companions. We also shared the river with a local herd of cattle as they watched us float by, make funny sounds and snap pictures. The stretches upstream are said to be as breathtaking, if not more so, than this stretch.

Dave Watts

Maquoketa River, Royertown Canoe Access to Joinerville Park

West of Maquoketa, Iowa, Sep 20—This stretch had more sand/gravel bars to negotiate and you had to pick the correct channel in the river to get the ‘deeper’ water and a few riffles to play in. The deadfall — strainers on this stretch were more frequent and easily negotiated; there were only two river wide strainers with only one requiring a small portage. This stretch offered a sand/gravel bottom, higher banks, ranged from deep hardwood forests to rolling pasture land, with pasture land being more prevalent. The river widened and current slackened a bit towards the take out due to the fact that it was only 5 miles upstream of the dam at Lakehurst Lake. One large bald eagle ‘posed’ for us in a dead tree for quite awhile while we gazed and snapped photos. I think the Maquoketa River is quickly becoming a PSC ‘staple’ waterway. The stretches upstream are said to be as breathtaking, if not more so, than this stretch.

Dave Watts

Fox River

Sheridan to Wedron, Sep 25—This trip on the Fox River replaced the proposed trip on the Upper Northern Vermilion due to lack of water in the Vermilion. Lost a few paddlers because of the

forced river change, but those who paddled the Fox enjoyed a fine day. I have paddled this section numerous times and just today noticed for the first time a large bluff of St. Peter sandstone about a quarter mile upstream from the Rt 52 Bridge and maybe fifty yards in from the water on river right. We trudged through the muck to investigate and found a mini Starved Rock type grotto as part of the formation. The river was low, but the small side shoot off of river right around Indian Island was passable. This passage allows paddlers the best possible view of the long stretch of white rock formations on the north side of the river. Dave and Regina Watts pointed out a small cave that could be paddled through. It was fun! Early fall colors were abundant throughout the trip. Leading the way was the crimson poison ivy vines evident on many trees. We spotted great blue herons, green herons, American egrets, killdeers, kingfishers, and even a UFO. That stands for Unidentified Flying Owl. It was probably a Great Horned Owl, but if you are not positive then it qualifies as a UFO. Rain caught us in the last half hour, but we were prepared and it did not dampen the spirits. Thanks to Dave and Regina for the car shift and helping me through the PSC paperwork.

Mike

Kishwaukee River

Cherry Valley to Atwood Park, Sep 30—Fall is in the air!! All enjoyed a sunny and breezy day in the high 60’s along with the ducks, geese, kingfishers and GBH.

Regina Watts

Des Plaines Confluence Loop

Channahon, Oct 4—Three Kayakers and one Canoeist spent a beautiful fall day doing “the Loop”. Thankfully not many power boats out. Some headwind challenged us at times. Highlight was the last leg on the I — M. Hidden underneath the still green oaks were some maples adorned in gold and red and a deer greeted us near the finish.

Brad De Ark

Sugar River

Brodhead to Avon, Wisconsin, Oct 10—Mother nature and the weather men pulled a fast one on us! What was forecasted to be sunny and in the 50s turned out to be mid 30s, windy, and snow showers! Ten paddlers

bundled up and in spite of the cold had a very enjoyable paddle down the Sugar. Because of the weather the only wildlife seen were one deer, a couple of kingfishers, one duck, and of course the GBH! A lot of the trees had all ready lost their leaves but there was still some color in the woods. Thanks to Tom L. and Steve V. for help with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

Fox River

Sheridan to Wedron, , Oct 11—What should have been a 50+ degree day with lots of sun, turned into a 40+ day with limited sunshine. Nonetheless, 12 hearty paddlers put themselves on the water to see some fall colors. Fortunately everyone took precautions and dressed appropriately and had a good time. An eagle’s nest was seen, but no eagles sighted today, just a few blue herons and hawks. The trees were just starting to change and gave a nice contrast with the gloomy sky. Always nice to paddle in the fall with such a nice group of people.

Janice Wellborn

Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Cherry Valley, Oct 14—Despite the cool temperatures, clouds, and light rain at times the good old reliable “Kish” delivered another very nice day to be out paddling! Although low (1.53 feet and 196 cfs) there was enough water that we didn’t have to get out and walk at any time. There seems to be a lot more dead fall along the shores, especially in the second half of our trip, than I remembered from the last time we were down this stretch of river. There were no river-spanning strainers encountered along the way, thank goodness! We had a very leisurely lunch at the Distillery Road site, which is where we encountered our light rain for a few minutes. Of course, we saw numerous “GBH’S” along the way, cedar waxwings, yellow rumped warblers, kingfishers, and several large flocks of robins. Because of our cold nights lately almost all of the fall wildflowers are gone with only hardy asters and goldenrod being abundantly seen. Thanks to Gerry and Margy for the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Trip Reports continued

Chicago River, Pumpkin Paddle

Willow Road and Forest Way Drive, , Oct 17—After some heavy showers prior to the start of the pumpkin paddle the rain held off and we even had some sun break through. Fourteen paddlers from PSC joined others for the 1st Annual Pumpkin Paddle. The first thirty paddlers got a very nice orange polar fleece hat courtesy of the Illinois Paddling Council. The trip itself was without incident. There were a few strainers but none that totally blocked the river. The depth of the water at 2.19' and a cfs of 107 allowed everyone to paddle over the first dam and about half of the people paddled over the second dam. Deer and lots of different birds were reported seen along the way. The forest preserve district provided cider and donuts at the take out. An enjoyable day for all!

Melinda Tury

Fawn — Pigeon Rivers I

Pigeon East of Mongo, Indiana — Fawn River East of Sturgis, Michigan, Oct 17–Sun 18—The Saturday trip was on the Pigeon River though the Indiana Pigeon River fish and Wildlife area. I saw only 1 house along the river and that was a couple hundred feet from the river. We could not go through the wetlands area because after Oct 15 the DNR closes the area to all water craft for deer hunting. We did see a lot of wildlife both days including a large buck on the Fawn. As always we had a great dinner in Topeka at an Amish Restaurant. Thanks to Mike Niec and Ray Ziemer for the car shift.

Paul Clifford

Nippersink Creek

Glacial Park to Spring Grove, Oct 21—The weather was better than anyone could have dreamed of for late October. It was sunny with the temps close to the 70's with a gentle breeze. Water was a bit low, so there was some scraping. The warm temperatures also brought out the frogs and turtles. And the ever present GBH were out in abundance. A fine time was had by all. Thanks to Melinda Tury, Dave Watts — Bob Tyler for the carshift and returns.

Regina Watts

Fox River

Sheridan To Ottawa, , Oct 25—We paddled the best section of the Fox and then some today and we did it during the peak fall colors, with very nice weather. There is a nice overlook at the Dayton Dam portage featuring the quite high and loud Dayton Dam. However, as in my previous experience the hydroelectric personnel came by in their pickup truck and ask that we keep moving. Approximately another 5 mi we were through Ottawa and crossing the Illinois River and took out at 3:30, about 4 1/2 hrs paddling. Thanks to Bill Erickson for the car shuttle, Sharon for watching the boats while we shuttled and Bob Tyler for the return shuttle.

Steve Shay

West Branch Du age River

Winfield to Warrenville, , Oct 25—Earlier in the week I had been checking out the West Branch to see if there was enough water for one more fall trip. Then the rains came, and we were talking about cancelling, with flood waters lapping all around the Williams Road bridge, leaving no head room. But as usual, the water goes down as fast as it rises, and we ended up with a nice afternoon: pleasant temperatures, no rain, and a brisk current. Tom had contacted me along with some of his friends so we were able to make a PSC trip out of it after all, with about half from the club and the other half guests—avid paddlers all, in kayak and canoe.

Ray Ziemer

South Branch of the Kishwaukee

Genoa to Kirkland, Oct 28—Even though the river was high at 847 cfs and a depth of 4.03 feet, no problems were encountered as this is a wide, fairly straight section of the South Kish. Today was wildlife day as we saw two bucks, three does, a bald eagle, an otter, two great horned owls, red-wing blackbird flocks, hawks, of course the “GBH”, freshly chewed beaver trees, ducks, geese, etc. With most of the leaves down from the trees it gives you a new perspective of the landscape. Lunch was at the park at Kingston. Even after the twelve mile paddle three paddlers opted to continue on another four miles! Thanks to Margy, John, and Bob for the car shifts.

Melinda Tury

Carroll Creek

Mt Carroll, Oct 31—The creek was running high after a period of heavy rain, the only good time to paddle it. At this level there were excellent surfing waves and strong eddy lines. There were also countless spots where the strong current pushed us into the canyon walls; luckily there was only one unexpected swim. There was one other instance where there was a potential for swimming, but this was averted by the use of a rescue rope strung across the creek and the ballerina like agility of the paddler. The boat wasn't as lucky, it got wet. It was a great day on the water. A big thanks goes out to Steve Voss for doing the driver return.

Mark Morrall

Pigeon / Fawn Rivers - IN

Orland to Howe, Indiana, Oct 31–Nov 1—Thank you to Dan Vallesky and the Hoosier Canoe Club for their Halloween Camp, Paddle and Fish Fry Weekend. The two day trip combined the Hoosier Canoe Club, PSC, Paddle Michiana, Ft Wayne Paddlers and Raincrow's Boater Bunch. Camping for the weekend was at the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. The following is from the Hoosier Canoe Club report. Saturday arrived with clouds, winds between 15 and 25 mph, and temps in the 40s. We ate breakfast at Chubby's in Orland, after which we headed to the put-in on SR 327 where we saw 27 boats and 30 paddlers set out on the Pigeon River. We took out on CR 900 and headed to the campground to re-group and then proceed to Wall Lake Tavern for a fish fry dinner. Sunday brought out the sun and warm weather. We stopped for breakfast at the Howe Restaurant and then proceeded to the Fawn River at Watt Road, where 17 paddlers enjoyed a beautiful trip down the Fawn River. Our lunch stop included a little water feature where several boats went out to play. We paddled about 12 miles in 3 1/2 hours and took out at Big Hill Road. After saying our goodbyes at the takeout we headed to Free Run Cellars and Tabor Hill Winery before heading home. Pictures of the trip: <http://albums.phanfare.com/isolated/gPSVOeYZ/1/4419242>.

Steve Sinderson

Sugar River

Nelson Road to Yale Bridge,, Nov 7— Mother nature blessed us with a rare gift of a low 70's day, bright sunshine, gentle breeze, a cfs of 514 and a depth of 1.88 feet in the river. We had four paddlers take a very leisurely paddle down the river enjoying the peace and quiet. Hunters were heard only once while we were on the water. With the good water flow we investigated a small side stream until it was blocked by downed trees. There are quite a few new trees down in the river—some completely blocking the river—but at this level we did not have to portage and managed to “squeak by”. Not much wildlife was seen but we of course had our “GBH's”, hawks, ducks, juncos, woodpeckers, flickers, bluejays, and chickadees keeping us company. All the leaves are down which gave new perspective to the river environment. A good time was had by all of us. Thanks Tom for returning me to my car!

Melinda Tury

Big Rock Creek

*Plano ,1 Nov 7—*After 2 years of planning, scouting — dreaming; my work schedule and the weather cooperated in allowing me the pleasure of paddling one the most pristine creeks in Northern Illinois with some good friends. We only went six miles, but it was a joy. We knew we were going to get wet; although there were no dumps; the obstacles — portages kept us wet. Thankfully the weather was great and no one got hypothermia. We all ended up taking off layers. The creek showed us a tamer side of itself at this height — flow, as we did not scrape or drag. It allowed us time to enjoy the scenery and enjoy the paddle without having to constantly be on our guard against being swept into the strainers or over the dams. We encountered many hawks, two deer and the GBH. The water level and flow were just right for folks who hadn't been on the creek before or for those that it had been awhile (10 years) since they last visited. With some hard work — elbow grease on some of the strainers, the trip would be a lot more enjoyable, even if you can only run it once or twice a year. Thanks Tom for assisting in the reverse car shift. We look forward to enjoying the creek again.

Dave Watts

Fox River, Yorkville - Millington

*Yorkville–Millington,, Nov 8—*As always this stretch of the Fox provides some gorgeous scenery. With a stop at Silver Springs State Park and after playing in the Millbrook dam ‘wave’ and the river-wide riffle just east of the takeout, we made a quick trip to Millington. And, as always, the south wind challenged us on the last 4 miles. Didn't encounter much wildlife, but the great weather made up for lack of wildlife. Thanks to Steve, Tracy — Claude for assisting with the car shifts.

Dave Watts

Fox River

SEBA Park, South Elgin to Ferson Creek Park, St. Charles, Nov 11— Mother Nature served us up another perfect day for paddling—almost NO wind, sunny skies with mare's tails, temps in the low 50s, and good current in the river. Sixteen people made the paddle in about two and a half hours at a nice pace. The only wildlife seen were grebes, mallards, geese, hawks, and gulls. No GBH's or egrets so they must have started their migration. Leaves are totally gone off of the trees which allowed us to see more of the big houses along the way. Lunch afterward at Salerno's of the Fox was enjoyed by all. Thanks Craig for help with the car shift.

Melinda Tury

Kishwaukee

Belvidere to Cherry Valley, Nov 21— The water level was perfect, not too high, not too low. My thanks go out to all of you who came out to join us on this beautiful November day. A special thank you goes out to Mike McDonald and Kim Parsons for helping me with the carshift.

Mark Morrall

DuPage River, Knoch Knolls to Hammel Woods

*Knoch Knolls Park South Plainfield, Nov 22—*Saw several deer, twice crossing the river. Water level was low but no problems, scraped bottom a little first couple of miles then better after meeting up with east branch of DuPage. Two hours to get to 135th st boat ramp, 6.8 miles. We had lunch there and the 5 paddlers that opted for the shorter trip loaded onto their waiting vehicles and the remaining 3 of us continued down to Hammel Woods another 11.2

miles for 18 total and off the river at 4:00 PM. Although this section is easily paddlable at this level at 260 cfs without getting out, the river was almost entirely 1 ft or less to 1 1/2 ft and paddles were hitting bottom quite a bit.

Steve Shay

Blackwater, Escambia, Hillsborough, Juniper Springs

*Alabama and Florida, Nov 28–Dec 3—*The Escambia and Blackwater were delightful with sandy beaches and typical Alabama and Florida vegetation. The Hillsborough provided many birds including Cormarant, Anhinga, Wood Stork, Kingfisher, Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Red shoulder Hawk, Roseate Spoonbill, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, White Ibis. Juniper Creek was its usual charming self in spite of a fire there last year. We were rained out from the Sopchoppy as the water was too high for paddling, so the trip was somewhat abbreviated.

Joan Taylor

Upper DesPlaines River clean up

Oak Spring Rd to Rte 60, Oct 9— Wildlife: Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed hawk, Green Heron, deer, small unidentifiable songbirds, the usual suspects. Braving a chilly morning, six canoeists converged on the Upper Des Plaines River, and cleaned up from Oak Spring Road to Rte 60. It was a long day. One of the tires had a small catfish trapped inside it—we practiced catch-and-release. By the time we were 3/4 of the way, the six canoes were just about loaded to capacity, so we stopped gathering garbage. At Hollister Dam, Peggy was lining her overloaded, top-heavy canoe down the drop (4-6inches?) and the boat rolled. We were able to get most of the lost trash back out, but we came up missing a tire. The final haul at the takeout included six tires, three lawn/patio chairs, a potted viburnum, half of a crankshaft from a large piece of earthmoving equipment, several shoes and tennis balls, a 55-gallon drum, and more trash too fierce to mention. The industrial buildings around Rte 176 seem to think the river is their personal dumping ground. We will follow up with the County. Thanks to Peggy Jacobs and Joan Taylor for the car shuttles, and to all who showed up to clean this section out. We need an instant replay to finish the job....

Paul Klonowski

Prairie State Canoeists
2010 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 (print 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 Marcelle Fahr, 1253 Penny Lane, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.
 ___New Member ___Renewal ___New address or phone?

Print in directory: Address? ___Yes___No
 Phone? ___Yes___No E-mail? ___Yes___No

[The directory is provided in hard copy to members only; no membership information is available electronically.]

Would you like:
 a paper copy of the newsletter? ___Yes___No
 an electronic copy of the newsletter? ___Yes___No

NOTE: Prairie State Canoeists actively supports the Illinois Paddling Council, whose mission is to develop and protect watertrails throughout Illinois. One dollar (\$1.00) of your dues to PSC will be forwarded to IPC, which will enroll you as a member in IPC, unless you check the box below. (Your \$1.00 contribution will not increase your PSC dues, and withholding it will not reduce your PSC dues.)

I do not want \$1.00 of my dues to PSC to be forwarded to IPC.

Looking Forward

February Social February 20
 Canoecopia and Paddling Club
 Rendezvous..... March 12-14
 Spring Pot-Luck..... March 20

Training Schedule

Introduction to Paddling,
 Canoe and Kayak..... April 3
 Moving Water 1, Canoe..... April 17
 Moving Water 1, Kayak April 24
 Moving Water 2, Canoe..... May 8
 Moving Water 2, Kayak TBD
 Whitewater, Canoe May 22
 Whitewater, Kayak..... TBD
 Introduction to Canoe Camping
 August 7 & 14-15
 Pedal, Paddle & Picnic..... September 12
 Annual Meeting and Dinner... November 13

**The SOLO CANOEING CLASS
 Scheduled for Conant High School
 in Schaumburg . . .**

has been cancelled due to a conflict with school activities. We are informed that it will resume in 2011.