



PSC Paddler

The Newsletter of Prairie State Canoeists, A Canoe and Kayak Club Founded in 1971
<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org> Volume 42 No.4 September–November 2010



Iony Harrison



Pedal, Paddle & Picnic Sunday, October 3, Jericho Lake, Aurora

Jericho Lake Park in Aurora is the setting for the PSC annual picnic. As initiated last year by picnic czar Brad DeArk, the day will include biking, paddling, food, fun, games, and camaraderie. All the elements of previous picnics will be there—paddling demos, children’s games, boats to paddle, gear swap, and exciting raffle prizes.

The pedaling starts at 9:00 AM on the Virgil Gilman trail, looping back for the put-in to Blackberry Creek. From there, the paddle portion ends at the park. “What an under-utilized little gem this creek is,” says Brad, after he paddled it recently.

Picnic festivities start at noon. Complete details and a map are on page 3.

Volunteers Needed

Now Brad needs willing volunteers to help with set-up and other tasks, soliciting the raffle prizes, safety boaters, pedal and paddle leaders, and on-water game and demonstration leaders. Contact Brad at 847-494-3830 or bdeark@msn.com.



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Annual Meeting and Dinner Combined with IPC Saturday, November 20, White Fence Farm

Tom Croak, chair of Prairie State Canoeists, has announced that PSC will join with the Illinois Paddling Council in a joint dinner celebration honoring two giants of Illinois paddling, Ralph Frese and Bob Tyler. Ralph is a founding member of both PSC and IPC and will receive The Illinois Paddling Council’s first “Lifetime

Achievement Award.” Bob Tyler will receive the IPC Paddler of the Year award. Bob will also present an entertaining program titled “Lessons from a Life of Paddling”.

Set for White Fence Farm in Romeoville, each organization will hold separate business meetings at 5:15 PM, before dinner. PSC members who do not want to attend the dinner are entitled to attend and participate in the annual meeting. A board meeting will begin at 3:30. Complete details and reservation form are on page 5.

**PSC Business Meeting
Starts at 5:15 PM**

Delivered to your desk top now!

PSC E-Paddler—The E-Voice of Prairie State Canoeists

The first issue of PSC’s new e-mail newsletter was sent recently to all members who have included their e-mail addresses on

their application forms. If you did not receive this e-mailed issue, please send your current e-mail address to Melinda Tury, [\[sbcglobal.net\]\(mailto:sbcglobal.net\). If you do not want to receive the newsletter by e-mail, follow the on-screen directions to unsubscribe.](mailto:mtury@</p></div>
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Prairie State Canoeists
c/o Marcelle Fahr
1253 Penny Lane
DeKalb, IL 60115

From the Chair

Although paddling season never ends, we are concluding the most active part of the paddling season. But those warm days in November, the New Year's Day paddle, the Florida rivers trips in January, and the promise of spring in February will sustain us until next season begins in earnest.

This time of year also brings us to some of our year end social events. Brad DeArk is once again organizing our picnic—at a new venue this year—on October 3. This is a great opportunity for new and old members to get together socially. Complete details on the picnic are in this newsletter.

Our annual fall banquet and business meeting will be a bit different from past years. At the invitation of the Illinois Paddling Council, we will participate in a joint dinner and social program honoring Ralph Frese and Bob Tyler.

This will give our members, especially our many new members, a connection to the larger paddling community, a history of our club, insight into the work of the Illinois Paddling Council, and an appreciation of the issues that affect all paddlers. This is a unique opportunity for this year's fall dinner and meeting that is not likely to be repeated in future years.

Bringing to fruition a commitment we announced earlier this year, we have sent our first electronic newsletter, an electronic version

of this newsletter, to members who have provided an email address. This will reduce costs (holding down the cost of dues) and enhance our communications efficiency in future years. We will still provide a printed directory to members, so that contact information is not available to the general public via the website.

To make certain you receive electronic newsletters and occasional timely reminders next year, please include your email address on your dues renewal form. Details on dues are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year, we have worked quite diligently on recruiting new members, with significant success. Our year end events, the picnic and the fall dinner, give us all an opportunity to extend our friendships and to welcome our new members into the broader scope of our club activities. Let's work together to meet and greet and to make all welcome.

At year end, we also find service opportunities to help clean up after a summer of activities. The Rock River Sweep is still ahead of us, along with many local clean-ups sponsored by our club members who also serve as Watertrail Keepers. Let's all help as much as we can; join the clean-ups and get our streams ready for the next season.

Tom Croak

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

Pedal, Paddle, & Picnic

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Jericho Lake Park in Aurora

Bike Ride at 9:00 AM (10 Miles) • Paddle at 10:00 AM (5 Miles) • Picnic at Noon

The Bike Ride



The start will be at 9:00 AM at a Gilman trailhead on Edgelawn Drive. That is one (1) mile east of Orchard Road on Jericho Road. Turn left (north) on Edgelawn. The parking lot for the trailhead is 100 yards on the left.

The route is to the Waubensee College campus in Sugar Grove and back to the Densmore Road crossing, approximately 10 miles. The Blackberry Creek put-in is on left 50 yards. Bikes can be left here during the paddle and will be returned to the picnic area if requested. Riders who also want to paddle may drop their boats at this location before the ride. A Fox Valley Park District map of the Gilman bike path found at <http://foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/>.

The Paddle

The paddle begins between 10:00 and 10:30 AM. The put-in is at Densmore Road and the take-out is at Jericho Lake Park, approximately 5 miles in 2 hours. The takeout will be marked. After the paddle, bikers and paddlers will be shuttled back to their vehicles.

Directions to the paddle put-in are: from the Orchard Road / West Galena Blvd intersection go west on Galena 1.5 miles, then right on Densmore 100 yards to the access on left, before the Blackberry Creek bridge. Pull off to the side of the road to park on the south side of the bridge, which is park district property.



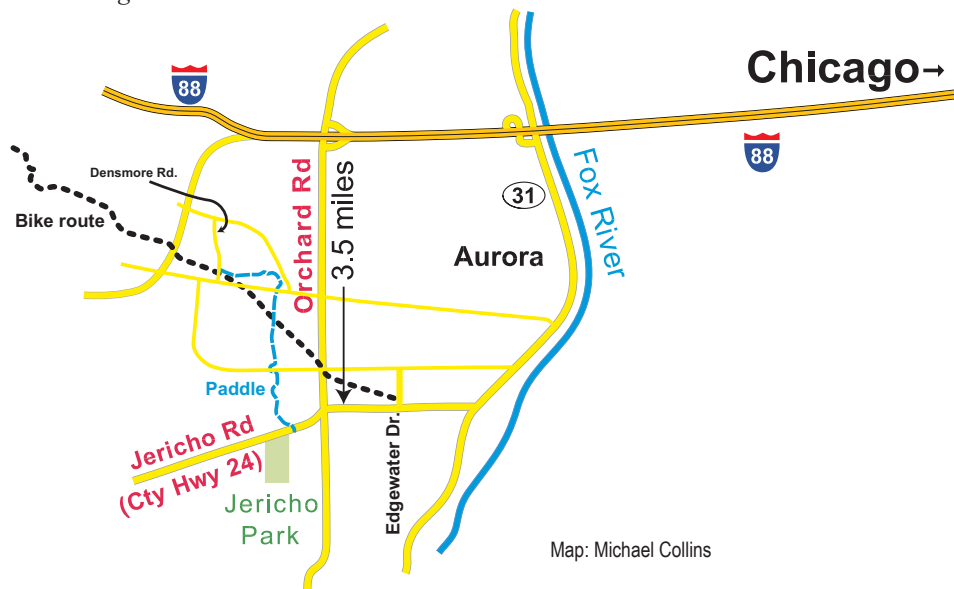
Important: Let Brad know if you intend to bike and/or paddle, 847-494-3830 or bdemark@msn.com.

The Picnic

This is BYO (Bring Your Own...). Activities include on-water games and skill-building sessions, raffles, shore games, children's games, and any other enjoyable idea that you wish to share.

What to bring: Food and drink for the entire day, perhaps a dish to share; chair for each person; tarps and dining canopies; stove or other cooking source; your boat(s); PFDs, paddles (marked with your name if you are willing to allow others to test your equipment), paddling and camping gear to sell or trade.

Directions to the park: From I-88, west through the Aurora area and past the Fox River. Orchard Road exit, then south 3.5 miles and right (west) on Jericho Road to the park on left.



Map: Michael Collins

Safety Corner

PSC Training Program Cited

Instructors, Materials, Video Recording, Low Cost, Safety Rated Tops

Bharat Meshwami has attended almost every level of training offered by PSC, some of them twice. Here, at our invitation, he offers his assessment of his experiences.

PSC has a great team of instructors, very experienced, knowledgeable, friendly and caring. They make the learning experience a lot of fun. I could write a million things that I liked. You picked a great river for us to learn and didn't push us around, always encouraged us to try within our comfort zone. What I also liked are the demos and the tips. I like to see someone do it first and then the learning process goes really fast. The instructors also made those of us who were a little nervous more comfortable by telling jokes from time to time that

lightened up the whole atmosphere. Instructors were more than willing to go an extra mile to help anyone out with anything from equipment to instruction; great group.

I had the most comprehensive learning experience and by that I mean if I take just one class, Moving Water 1, I was impressed. I am amazed at how much effort the instructors put in to teach us and the amount of training material you cover in a class. Almost 8--9 hours of instruction, plus the prep time. By comparison, I had taken a class at a commercial outfitter a few years ago and they charged at least triple just for a two-hour session on the pond next to the store, covering not even a tenth of what you taught us in one class on that day.

Tom Lindblade's video recording of every student maneuver followed by a critique using the video on what went right or wrong was very helpful. Best tool for learning.

Training and learning the sport doesn't get any more affordable than this. With PSC club members helping with any gear a student needs for attending the class and a very low class fee, it is very easy to get started in the sport.

I was impressed with how much emphasis you put on safety. Everything from low head dams, hypothermia and strainers, you covered the full spectrum of things that could go wrong on a trip. You taught us how to enjoy the sport safely.

*Regards,
Bharat*

First Aid Class Leads to Certification

Prairie State Canoeists will sponsor a class in basic first aid on October 2, 2010 at the Izaak Walton House in Elgin. This class will be taught by an American Heart Association certified instructor. Participants who successfully complete this class will be given a two year AHA certification in both basic first aid and CPR. The class will begin at 9:00 AM and take about five hours.

The cost is \$35.00. Class size is limited, and students will be accepted on a first-come, first-enrolled basis. Anyone interested please contact Steve LaPorte at stevelaporte@earthlink.net (preferred) or 630-665-5707.

Call for Nominations, the Key to Future PSC Leadership

At our annual meeting on November 20, we will elect four directors and a treasurer for two-year terms and a co-chair, who will succeed to chair in 2012. If you would like to serve as an officer or director or nominate another person, contact a member of the nominating committee. Nominations are open and must be received by September 24, 2010. The officers and directors make important decisions concerning the operation of the organization, and the future well-being of the club depends on this leadership.

An operating procedure adopted in April, 1999 states that a nominee for the board must have been a member of the club for a minimum of two years. A nominee for chair and co-

chair must have been a member for a minimum of four years or have two years prior experience on the board. Nominees for other offices must have been members for a minimum of two years.

Members of the nominating committee are:

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

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

Ray Ziemer, 630-669-7831,
rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

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

Bill Kessler, 708-547-5314,
kslr@aol.com



Annual Meeting and Dinner Combined with IPC Saturday, November 20, 2010 White Fence Farm



Prairie State Canoeists will join with the Illinois Paddling Council in a joint dinner celebration honoring two giants of Illinois paddling.

Ralph Frese is a founding member of both PSC and IPC and will receive The Illinois Paddling Council’s first “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Bob Tyler is a long time member of both organizations and will receive the IPC “Paddler of the Year” award. Bob will also present an entertaining program titled “Lessons from a Life of Paddling”.

The event is scheduled for November 20 at White Fence Farm. Each organization will hold separate business meetings before dinner.

Proceedings of the PSC Annual Meeting will include elections of new officers and directors and the presentation of paddling awards. PSC members who do not want to attend the dinner are entitled to attend and participate in the annual meeting.

The PSC Annual Meeting Begins at 5:15 PM

A board meeting will begin at 3:30. All members are welcome.

This first-ever joint event offers an opportunity to enhance everyone’s appreciation of the paddling community in Illinois and introduce our members, especially new members, to the work of both PSC and IPC.

AGENDA

- 5:00 Meet and greet all
- 5:15 PSC business meeting: elections and awards
- 6:15 Social time and dinner
- 7:30 Presentation by Bob Tyler
- 8:15 Special awards to Ralph Frese and Bob Tyler

White Fence Farm
1776 Joliet Road
Romeoville, IL 60446
(815) 838-1500
www.whitefencefarm-il.com

To facilitate the arrangements of this joint event, please use the form below and send dinner reservations and payment by November 12 directly to Jack Snarr, Illinois Paddling Council, 2316 Prospect Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Prairie State Canoeists 2010 Fall Dinner Reservaton Form Deadline: November 12



Map: Michael Collins

Name (Print) _____

Phone # _____

Adults, \$25 (chicken) each # _____ \$ _____

Adults, \$20 (veggie) each # _____ \$ _____

10 & Younger, \$15.00 each # _____ \$ _____

Total \$ for Dinner \$ _____

Make Checks to Illinois Paddling Council and mail to Jack Snarr, Illinois Paddling Council, 2316 Prospect Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Trips and Events

Wed, Sep 8

Mid Week Paddle Gang

TBD after looking at water levels
Advanced Beginner,

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567
mtury@sbcglobal.net

This week's paddle will be posted approximately one week prior to the paddle date after consulting river gauges for water level and cfs. PFD and dump bag required. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Car shift at 10:00 AM. Please call or e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to put in available upon request.

Sat, Sep 11

Rock River Sweep

Rock river Fordham Dam to Hinchcliff FP

Advanced Beginner, Clean-up

Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net

Fri, Sep 10–Sun 12

Midwest Freestyle Symposium

Near Cleveland, OH

Advanced Beginner, Training

Paul Klonowski 847/687-2477
pklonowski@comcast.net

Obedience Lessons for your canoe... it'll learn how to dance!

Sat, Sep 11–Sun 12

Pine River

Michigan
Intermediate,

Paul & Alice Clifford
815-886-2554,
paul-clifford@att.net
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
708-3861371
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

Sat, Sep 11–Sun 12

Southern Michigan Rivers

near Three Rivers, Michigan

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

I have scouted out seven new stretches of rivers in the area and will determine which is the best for this time frame. Candidate rivers include: Nattawa Creek, Portage River, Prairie River and Rocky River. Camping and hotels are available in the area and you can either cook in camp or eat at local restaurants. Call / e-mail for details ASAP so I can get a head count and make arrangements.

Sat, Sep 18

Des Plaines River

Somewhere in Lake County, IL
Beginner, Clean-up

Paul Klonowski 847/687-2477
pklonowski@comcast.net

Celebrate It's Our River Day! Exact location TBD, depends on water levels, log jam status, and general trashiness.

Sat, Sep 11–Sun 19

Michigan Rivers

Lower Michigan

Advanced Beginner,

Joan Taylor 847 328-2628
taylorjrs@gmail.com
Regina Watts 630 552-1172
paddlingcouple@att.net

Sun, Sep 19

Pecatonica River

McConnell Bobtown Landing to West Block Trail Head.

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Tom Eckels 847-863-7046
eckelst@comcast.net
Lee Butler 815-232-5340
lbutler9@juno.com

Camping is available at McConnell Bobtown Landing and McNeils Damascus Landing on Saturday night. Join me for a Paddle on the PEC. You will be paddling Illinois' Friendliest River.

Wed, Sep 22

Mid Week Paddle Gang, Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Cherry Valley
Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567
mtury@sbcglobal.net

This week's paddle will be from Belvidere to Cherry Valley on the Kish. PFD and dump bag required. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Car shift at 10:00 AM. Please call or e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to put in available upon request.

Sat, Sep 25–Sun 26

Kickapoo River

Wildcat Mountain State Park

Beginner, Base Camping

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924
canoen1@sbcglobal.net
John & Marilyn Ziegler
847-742-7316
canucamp@sbcglobal.net

Call or e-mail for details.

Sun, Sep 26

Upper Des Plaines River Cleanup

tbd based on conditions

Advanced Beginner, Clean-up

Tom Eckels 8478637046
eckelst@comcast.net

Location TBD (Lake County branch Illinois Water TrailKeepers)

Sat, Sep 25–Sun 26

Fawn and Pigeon Rivers, Indiana

Intermediate, Base Camping

Emersons 219-662-1296
Cliffords 815-886-2554

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

Sat, Oct 2

First Aid Class

Izaak Walton House, Elgin
Training

Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707
stevelaporte@earthlink.net

PSC is offering First Aid and CPR training to all of our instructors and aides. The unfilled seats are now being offered to anyone who would like to take the class. The class will be held at the Izaak Walton House in Elgin on October 2, 2010. The cost of the class is \$35.00 (about half the normal cost). Participants completing the class will receive a two-year certification in both basic first aid and CPR from the American Heart Association. Anyone interested should contact Steve LaPorte. Seats will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Sun, Oct 3

Pedal, Paddle and Picnic

Jericho Lake park

Brad De Ark 847-494-3830

bdeark@msn.com

See page 3 for details.

Wed, Oct 6

Mid Week Paddle Gang, Pecatonica

Two Rivers Park to Macktown Forest

Preserve

Beginner,

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567

mtury@sbcglobal.net

This week's paddle will be on the Pecatonica River—a long, broad stretch suitable for beginners. PFD and dump bag required. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Car shift at 10:00 AM. Please call or e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to put in available upon request.

Sat, Oct 9

Pecatonica River Fall Flotilla

McConnell, IL

Lena Community Park District

815-369-5351

programs@lenaparks.org

Enjoy the fall colors and a leisurely canoe or kayak paddle down the natural water trail of the Pecatonica River. You will paddle from McConnell Bobtown Landing to McNeil's Damascus Landing, which is a 7.9 mile trip and takes 2 1/2 hours. Sag pontoon, lunch and shuttle transportation are included. A limited number of canoes/kayaks are available for those that do not have their own. Experienced paddlers will be on hand to assist the less experienced. 9:00 AM. FEE: \$20/person if you have your own canoe/kayak \$30/person if you need a canoe/kayak. (Not a PSC trip)

Sun, Oct 10

Des Plaines Confluence trip

Channahon, IL

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Brad De Ark 8474943830

bdeark@msn.com

Watch for details.

Sat, Oct 16

Upper Des Plaines River Cleanup

TBD based on conditions

Advanced Beginner, Clean-up

Tom Eckels 8478637046

eckelst@comcast.net

Location TBD (Lake County Branch, Illinois Water TrailKeepers)

Sat, Oct 9–Sun 17

Northern Michigan Fall Colors Trip

Way up north!

Intermediate/Advanced, Base Camping

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Requires pre-planning; call / e-mail for details.

Wed, Oct 20

Mid Week Paddle Gang, Salt Creek

Graue Mill to Plank Road

Advanced Beginner,

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567

mtury@sbcglobal.net

This week's paddle will be confirmed approximately one week prior to the paddle date after consulting river gages for water level and cfs as this creek would be a miserable trip if the water levels are too low! PFD and dump bag required. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Car shift at 10:00 AM. Please call or e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to put in available upon request.

Sat, Oct 23–Tue 26

Buffalo River

Arkansas

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Joan Taylor 847 328-2628

taylorjrs@gmail.com

We will meet up on the 22nd.

Sat, Oct 23–Sun 24

Southern Michigan Rivers

Advanced Beginner, Base Camping

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

I have scouted out seven new stretches of rivers in the area and will determine which is the best for this time frame. Candidate rivers include: Paw Paw River, Nattawa Creek, Portage River, Portage Creek, Prairie River and Rocky River. Camping and hotels are available in the area and you can either cook in camp or eat at local restaurants. Call / e-mail for details so I can get a head count and make arrangements.

Sat, Oct 30

Sterling Lake Clean-Up

Van Patten Woods, Lake County, IL

Beginner, Clean-up

Paul Klonowski 847/687-2477

pklonowski@comcast.net

One more clean-up before winter...

Sat, Oct 30–Sun 31

Pigeon and Fawn Rivers

NE Indiana

Advanced Beginner, Base Camping

Sherri Graham 815-353-2924

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Details to follow—this is a meet up with other paddling groups from southern Michigan and Northern Indiana.

Wed, Nov 3

Mid Week Paddle Gang Season-Ender

Fox River

Advanced Beginner,

Melinda Tury 630-234-7567

mtury@sbcglobal.net

This will be our season ender for the Mid Week Paddle Gang (no, I am not quitting paddling, I will continue until it gets too cold to continue!) Put in will be at S.E.B.A. Park in South Elgin and we will paddle to Ferson Creek Park in St. Charles with lunch afterward at Salerno's or any of the other restaurants in the area to celebrate another wonderful year of paddling. PFD and dump bag required. Bring water, sunscreen, etc. Car shift at 10:00 AM. Please call or e-mail if you plan to paddle. Map to put-in available upon request.

Sun, Nov 7

Upper Des Plaines River Cleanup

TBD Based on conditions

Advanced Beginner, Clean-up

Tom Eckels 847-863-7046

eckelst@comcast.net

Fri, Nov 26–Mon, Dec 6

Florida Rivers

Florida

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Joan Taylor 847 328-2628

taylorjrs@gmail.com

Peggy Jacobs 847 362-4120

paddlingpeggy@hotmail.com

The trip schedule is weather dependent. We aim to paddle 2–3 days in West Florida, 2–3 days in the Tampa area, 2–3 days in the Ocala Area and on the Ichetuckny. If water level permits, we will paddle on Fish Eating Creek. However, final plans will depend on weather. So we seek folks to paddle with us who are flexible and dedicated to having a good time wherever we are able to be on the water.

Trip Reports

New Years Day Paddle

Chicago River, Willow Rd Dam to Linne Woods, Fri, Jan 1—22 PSCers braved another brisk, cold Chicago New Year the right way—on the water or helping with this 25 year tradition. Actually, once on the water, the cold and wind weren't so bad. The river level was high, but not as high as in 2009, and all maneuvered the stretch quite well. As always, at the take out the paddlers were greeted with a warm fire, hot drink, snacks and great camaraderie to refresh one's body and soul. Luckily only a couple of paddlers dumped. There were plenty of ducks, several mink as well as other wildlife observed (aside from the paddlers). The clear skies and snow made for a great paddle. Thanks to all who came out and made this an enjoyable and safe event. See you all next year.

Dave Watts

Des Plains River

Grand Ave (Gowe Park) to Oak Spring Road, Libertyville, Sat, Jan 23—The group was small in size. Just the leader and co-leader on this winter day. We had a high temp of 27 degrees with overcast skies. Some of the things that we saw were a pair of coyotes, deer, hawks, great blue herons, beaver, muskrats, water, ice, and trees. We had a good time and plan on doing some more winter trips.

Bob Fenger

Nippersink Creek

Glacial Park To Sprng Grove, Mon, Jan 25—With a high temp of 40 degrees and a threat of rain, the three of us in two canoes and a kayak were lucky that the rain never materialized. Some of the wildlife that we saw were hawks, kingfishers, muskrats, and an owl. With an ax we had to break away the ice on the river bank so we could get out at the Pioneer Road lunch stop. Under the railroad bridge I saw a mink leap out of the water and run along the bank. Steve Voss took the time to saw away three strainers. All in all another good winter's day paddle.

Bob Fenger

Des Plains River

Route 60 (Vernon Hills) to Dam One (Wheeling), Sat, Feb 13—The nice thing about paddling in the winter is that you can pull your loaded canoe over the snow, from the parking lot to the river. It makes thing easy. We took

the time to play around below the first small dam. After a quick lunch stop by the Ryerson's cabin, we crossed paths with Sarah Hartman. She was paddling up stream to the Hollister building, and then turning back to go down river to her car. After talking to her we found that she had seen a lot more wildlife than we had. It was good to see someone else out paddling. The icicle formations like chandeliers were once again great to see. The weather turned out to be very nice. We had a high of 32 degrees. Not a cloud in the sky, and no wind. We had a great paddle, and thanks to my wife for letting this paddler get out on the water.

Bob fenger

Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Cherry Valley, Sun, Feb 28—We had a good group of paddlers. Seven people in seven boats. Some of the sights that we saw were a herd of deer, some wild turkeys, and cedar waxwings in their faded winter colors. We had a injured deer cross the river in front of us. We were able to get close enough to see that it had an eight-inch gash in its hind quarters. We paddled about eight miles and the take out came way to early.

Bob Fenger

Kishwaukee River

Belvidere to Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve, Sat, Mar 6 Ten experienced paddlers showed up for this early March trip. There was not a cloud in the sky, and we had a high of 45 degrees. After a show of hands, we lengthened the trip from Cherry Valley to Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve, which gave us a 12-mile trip, instead of an 8-mile trip. The geese are starting to pair up and you can see them lying in the grass by the river. There are already bugs coming out; we saw one or two during the length of the trip. For the third consecutive Kishwaukee trip we saw a Bald Eagle. They are great to see. Thanks to Sharon Colht and Mark Morrall for the car shift, and Bob Tyler for the return trip.

Bob Fenger

Piskasaw Creek

Capron, Il, Sat, Mar 27—We had a great crew of paddlers for this year's first PSC Corps of Discovery trip. The Piskasaw has hardly ever been paddled by PSC, mostly because of its need for

being run in the spring or after a heavy rain. The water level was pretty low for this trip but we decided to go for it anyway. There are four short rubble dams to run. At this lower water level they are of little threat to paddlers. We just bounced off a few rocks and took on very little water. When the creek is running a few feet higher these dams produce some nice waves to surf on. There are also plentiful strainers and blockages to contend with, some can bite you if you aren't careful. Thanks go out to Bill Erickson for helping me with the car shuttle.

Mark Morrall

Kishwaukee River, NB

Garden Prairie, Fri, Apr 2—9 paddlers (7 kayaks, 2 canoes) enjoyed a great April spring day on the NB of the Kishwaukee. This stretch (County Line Road—Red Horse Bend) is a club favorite for the variety of challenges that this river has. From riffles and a small dam to play in to twists, turns and strainers to challenge ones skills to flat water, this stretch seems to have it all. We all arrived at Red Horse Bend without incident and along the way were treated with the usual wildlife, which included a snapping turtle, wood ducks, goose nests w/eggs, cardinals, kingfishers and so on. Thanks to Steve and Bob for assisting with the car shifts.

Dave Watts

West Branch DuPage River

St. Charles Road to Mack Road, Sat, Apr 3—In spite of what the weather report called "light rain", eleven hardy souls clomped or slid down the muddy banks at the St. Charles Road bridge to put in on the West Branch. That light rain got heavier, off and on, but it seemed folks were still able to enjoy the twists, turns, and riffles of this narrow stream. County clean-up crews have removed serious log jams in the upper section, and nary a strainer grabbed our gunnels until we got halfway through Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve. There were some acrobatics to get through at one point, until Steve Voss went to work with his trusty blade. Good Man, Steve! A few spots were predictably shallow, notably at or under the bridges of Geneva Road, High Lake and the railroad in Winfield, and Roosevelt Road. By the time we got to the Winfield lunch stop at Beecher Sreet, (Lions Park) the rain had quit and the sun came shining. Unfortunately, the

change came on a gusting headwind, which bedeviled us from time to time on the way down to the Mack Road put-in. All-in-all, though, it should count as a good day on the water with old friends and new. Thanks to Jack Lewnard for the car shuttle and to Steve Voss and Rich and Julie Haick for helping with driver/boat logistics.

Ray Ziemer

Fox River

Yorkville–Millington, Sat, Apr 10—9 hardy souls were blessed with a great day and a swift paddle to Lois's Landing. There were plenty of other folks out on this nice day—kayakers, boaters, fishermen—and Silver Springs State Park was very crowded. We actually had a tail wind for most of the trip, which is rare on this stretch of the Fox. We encountered geese, ducks, turtles and other fowl. The banks were blooming with spring wildflowers, and this made a nice contrast to the still muddy river banks and dead wood in the forests. Thanks to George and Steve for doing the car shift and driver return.

Dave Watts

Carroll Creek

Mt Carroll, Sat, Apr 10—The Carroll Creek wasn't even on our list of possibilities to paddle on this weekend, but after getting an email from Andy Shaw telling me that the water level was up, we quickly changed our plans. We had great fun playing in the rapids, exploring a cave, and taking a hike up a wonderful side canyon. Merri and I want to thank everyone who came out to paddle with us and especially those who helped with the car shuttle, Richard and Tracy.

Mark Morrall

DuPage River

Naperville, Sun, Apr 11—We were rewarded for the long car shift once we got by the Faywell Dam 10 minutes after we started the trip. Half of us ran the dam but got wet. The others portaged with the help of those of us who ran up over the very high embankment. It must be 50 feet up. The rest of the trip was great with a nice lunch at Pioneer Park in Naperville. It was nice paddling through downtown Naperville along the Riverwalk. Special thanks to Susan Krusack and Steve Collins for car shifting.

Paul Clifford

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Seba Park in S Elgin to Ferson Creek Park, Wed, Apr 14—Gorgeous day with light winds. Two canoes and 5 kayaks, including 2 newbies to the club. Many geese and ducks, 1 GBH and some turtles at Ferson Creek Fen. Four of us had a delicious lunch at Salernos on the Fox, sitting on the outdoor patio.

Brad De Ark

Blackhawk Creek

Reinbeck, Iowa, Sat, Apr 17—Two floods so far this year have done the creek a bit of damage, but the four kayaks and one tandem canoe managed to complete the trip in around 5 hours. Wildlife sightings were held to a minimum by the wind, but the greening of the creekside made up for that.

Al Donaldson

DuPage River

Pioneer Park, Naperville–Eaton Preserve, Plainfield, Sat, Apr 17—Enthusiasm was high for another spring trip down the DuPage, according to the number of paddlers who turned up at Pioneer Park that Saturday morning. The parking lot was crowded as 20 PSC members and guests mingled with park district employees and volunteers working on landscaping around the relatively new parking area. Our car shuttle managed to avoid road construction this time, and happily we didn't lose a single car on the way. (Thanks to all three shuttle drivers and Bob for driver return.) By 11:00 AM we had left the landing on the West Branch and were enjoying the cool breeze and sunny skies. With the removal of a temporary pipe across the river below 75th Street there were no barriers to travel. Paul Clifford led the group to a pleasant lunch stop among the budding trees and a carpet of bluebells at Knoch Knolls Park. Lunch time, and we were still in Naperville! No one seemed to be in a hurry, though, so we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon paddle through that green corridor to the confluence with the East Branch and southwest toward Plainfield. Water level was adequate most of the way, and the weather beautiful, with wind at our backs. We took out as planned at the Eaton Preserve landing off 135th Street around 2:30, having made good time for a 10-mile trip in slow current.

Ray Ziemer

South Branch of the Kishwaukee

Genoa to Kirkland, Mon, Apr 19—We had a beautiful day to paddle with temps that went up to 70 degrees with almost no wind. The water level was low at 2.5 feet and a cfs of 300 but no one had to get out and walk—scrape yes, walk no! The forest floor along the river was covered with bluebells, violets, phlox, buttercups, trillium, spring beauties, and trout lillies. Lots of blooming trees and shrubs also lined the shores. Wildlife seen were a muskrat, numerous geese, songbirds, and of course the great blue heron. There were no river-wide obstructions to block our way, making for a safe and fun trip. Everyone agreed we were pleasantly tired by the end of the day. Thanks, Bob, for the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Little Wapsipinicon

Fairbank, Iowa, Sun, Apr 18—A complete report of all of this week's trips will be posted on the PSC Bulletin Board by April 30. This will allow the posting of more information as well as photos from the participants.

Al Donaldson

Lizard Creek

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Mon, Apr 19–Fri 23—*Al Donaldson*

Upper Shell Rock

Plymouth, Iowa, Tue, Apr 20–21

Winnebago River

Mason City, Iowa, Wed, Apr 21

Upper Turkey River

Fort Atkinson, Iowa, Thu, Apr 22

Yellow River

Volney, Iowa, Fri, Apr 23

Upper Blackhawk Creek

Grundy Center, Iowa, Sat, Apr 24

Sterling Lake Clean-Up

Van Patten Woods, Lake County, Wed, Apr 28–Sat 10—Three PSC members, some of Lake County's Finest (volunteer water trail stewards), and a pack of Cub Scouts attended this Earth Week Clean-Up event. Steve Voss and Seth Stein covered the water's edges from the lake, but with the wind blowing and increasing, we mostly walked the shoreline, picking up trash as we could find it. We got 5 or 6 bags of trash, a broken fishing pole, old fence posts, and a rusted out barrel. All in all, this lake seems to be getting less trashy over the years. I don't know if the fishermen are getting a clue, or we're actually getting ahead of them. But it works.

Paul Klonowski

Trip Reports continued

East Branch of the DuPage River

Hidden Lake to Royce Road, Fri, Apr 30—What a beautiful day to paddle! Warm temps, good water, and a light breeze made for a wonderful day on the East Branch. The flowering shrubs and trees in the Arboretum both smelled and looked beautiful. Wildlife seen were a mink, one muskrat, goslings, geese, wood and mallard ducks, an owl, of course the “GBH” and lots and lots of singing songbirds! Because of the mostly steep banks of the river channel, not a lot of wildflowers were seen. We encountered two river-blocking strainers—one in the arboretum, which required some “trimming” to allow us to paddle through, and one huge old cottonwood tree completely spanning the river in Green Valley. That one we were able to do the limbo under on the far right side. If the water level had been any higher we would have had to portage that one! Much thanks to Bob and John for the car shift!

Melinda Tury

Dammed DuPage, West Branch

Mack Road, Warrenville to Centennial Park, Naperville, Sun, May 2—This trip was on the gritty edge of being canceled for lack of water before evening storms dumped bucketsful on the West Branch. Then the West Chicago gauge jumped from 3.8’ at 18 cfs to 5.34 at 173 cfs and rising (it crested at 500 cfs). A total of 5 solo canoes and one kayak put in at the Mack Road canoe landing as the skies cleared and the day turned gorgeous. At higher water levels paddlers need to consider the low bridge at Williams Road, which we ducked under with no problem this day. Farther downstream we saw the construction ongoing at the former Cenacle Retreat, where the new urban river research center will soon be built. Portaging right at the Warrenville Grove Dam, we discussed the removal of the structure in concert with the thorium clean-up that is soon to recommence upstream. The green corridor from Warrenville Dam to McDowell Grove, where we lunched, is always a pleasant trip. Until the last phase of the thorium clean-up is completed, we will still have to carry over the temporary sheet-pile dam at McDowell Grove. Downstream, we found that the increased flow had provided the culverts of Fawell Dam with a 3–4’ high wave at the bottom, which doused a few paddlers and swamped the leader. Sparky the Dog

and I swam a bit, while more sensible people walked the walk. After bailing and putting in for the last leg, one more challenge confronted us: construction of the bridge at Jefferson Street. has produced a Police Order prohibiting travel downriver. Somehow, we made it to the take-out at Naperville’s Centennial Park. A beautiful day. Thanks to John Ziegler for shuttle driver return

Ray Ziemer

White River, Wisconsin

Lake Geneva to Lyons, Wed, May 5—We put in right behind the Grand Geneva Resort. The first half of our trip was flat water. The river meanders and we had a wind to contend with. The second half of this trip the gradient increases. You need to maneuver around many rocks. Its a good place to improve your paddling skills

Bob Fenger

DuPage River

Plainfield to Shorewood, Fri, May 7—Although there was plenty of water in the DuPage and the current was brisk, it was decided to shorten the trip due to winds gusting up to 40 mph. Kayakers James and Karen Miller decided to join me for the short trip. Putting in at Electric Park as planned, we found the wind not such a factor as we had feared. As the river turned east, though, even the wind at our backs became at times problematic. Rain held off, but the wind coupled with unseasonably cool temperatures made our take-out at Riverside Parkway canoe launch the prudent decision.

Ray Ziemer

Turtle Creek

School Section Road to O’Reiley Road, Sat, May 8—After experiencing the warmest April on record, our May 7th trip on the Turtle Creek saw a temperature of 49 degrees and a threat of rain. We saw the usual wildlife: deer, muskrat, green heron, kingbird, and signs of beaver. We paddled through the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area. We may have seen five houses the entire trip. Some of the nice things about this section of the Turtle Creek are, no strainers to carry around, you see very little garbage, and the scenery is very enjoyable.

Bob Fenger

Buffalo River

Arkansas, Sat, May 8–Sun 9—The highlight was spotting several eagles. This was a relaxed, leisure paddling trip with two young children and ten kid-friendly adults and one charming dog. We lucked out on the weather with two cloudy and three sunny days with good temps. Two hours after we got off the river, the heavens opened up with a heavy downpour. Thanks to Rick Fleming whose quick response overtook the one possible canoeing mishap.

Joan Taylor

Salt Creek

Graue Mill to Plank Road, Sat, May 8–Sun 9—We had just enough water to make it over all the little check dams and riffles without anyone getting stuck. Salt Creek’s banks are quite steep in most areas which made finding a suitable lunch spot a little tricky but we survived! The deep tunnel flood control tubes were quite intimidating. We all agreed that there should have been some kind of warning signs posted to alert people of the danger as they come in a sharp bend in the river. We encountered two log jams but managed to find our way through them without anyone having to get out and portage. Wildlife was abundant, including four deer—one of which jumped off the bank and swam across the river, jumped the other bank and bounded off into the woods—a beaver, a muskrat, a mink, lots of ducks and geese, butterflies, and of course the “GBH”! Since the banks were so steep it was hard to see many wildflowers but we did see an abundance of phlox and buttercups. Thanks to my car shifters!

Melinda Tury

Nippersink Creek

Glacial Park to Lyle C. Thomas Park, Sat, May 8–Sun 9—Today we had a large group—23 people and 19 boats—take advantage of beautiful weather for a leisurely paddle down the Nip. Wildlife seen were sandhill cranes, meadowlarks, yellow warblers, goldfinches, orioles, geese with goslings, hawks, a few ducks, great northern water snakes, and various other songbirds. The prairie wildflowers are just starting to bloom with golden alexanders, and field daisies being the most seen and dames rockets, phlox, geraniums, and buttercups in the shaded wooded areas. The cows were in the stream looking at us with curiosity! The water level at 5.66 feet and a cfs

of 332 was perfect – just deep enough so you didn't have to get out and walk and fast enough to be fun! Lunch was at Pioneer Park. A good day was had by all. Thanks to my car shifters Marilyn, Sharon, Gerry, and Bob. Also, a big thanks goes out to Gordon for chaperoning and giving guidance to our "newbies" along on the trip.

Melinda Tury

Middlefork of the Vermillion

Danville, Sat, May 15—On Saturday a group of 12 PSCers paddled from Kenney's Ford to the landing in Kickapoo State Park. The weather was a bit cool and windy, the water level, at 1.8 on the gauge, was good for an easy paddle, but you did have to use your river reading skills to dodge a few shallows. The wind was no problem at all. A car was spotted at the half way point, but no one wanted to get out there. Among the array of wild life, a bald eagle crossed the river in front of us and landed near its' nest in a tree above. The photographers went wild taking pictures, as it posed proudly for all of us. Saturday night we all enjoyed an evening at Montana Mikes for good food and camaraderie. Sunday was bright and sunny but the water level had dropped to 1.7 on the gauge. We decided to start up stream at Potomac and paddle down to Kenney's Ford, a section we seldom do. It turned out to be just as exciting and beautiful as any other part of that river system. Any lower water level, however, might be a problem on both sections. We thank everyone who made this a great trip and a special thanks to those who helped in the car shuttles. Hopefully we can all come back next year for more fun and adventure.

Larry and Evelyn Tennyson

Dupage River

Hammel Woods to Shepley Road, Mon, May 17—Lovely day on the water. At this level, lots of best features were lost or muted, but still a pleasant day was had by all. Thanks to all who came out on such short notice.

Janice Wellborn

Lemonweir River

Mauston, Wisconsin, Tue, May 18—Water level was high but receding. (There is no gauge, but it empties into the Wisconsin River, so you can use the gauge at the Dells for a rough estimate).

It was a mild, sunny day in the high 70s with a gentle breeze. This river has many creeks and side ponds and sloughs, so the challenge is to decide which way the main channel is going. It is smallish, 40–70 feet wide, sandy bottom and mostly tree shaded with occasional sandy "beaches". Minimal deadfall, no portages and excellent put-ins and take-outs make this an easy paddle.

Regina Watts

Robinson Creek

Near Black River Falls, Wisconsin, Wed, May 19—Robinson Creek is a jewel if you like small creeks. Heavily wooded, its swift current and healthy gradient takes you on a joyride. There is no gauge and is best run after a rain; we determined the 12–14 inches of water perfect for paddling. Gradient is about 7.5 feet per mile with pleasant riffles, occasional little sandy spots, a sprinkling of limestone walls and lots of sweet smelling pine trees. It is only 20–30 ft. wide and the local paddlers keep it fairly free of strainers. The water is cold, spring fed and, like most rivers in this area, darkly stained caused by iron, tannins and organic matter. We were pleasantly surprised to find a dam about hour into the trip. There is a nice portage on the right and a beautiful white sandy beach, to launch from. The dam takes water from the creek to irrigate the cranberry bogs. Quickly after the dam, the creek becomes heavily wooded again and the stone walls become higher and more frequent for a time along with the wave trains. A huge selection of spring wild flowers were seen, along with many birds, but the highlight was the large porcupine. This fellow was minding his own business, drinking on the side of the stream when it was surprised by Bill Kessler and his dog Lenny, who were soundlessly drifting by in the lead canoe. The porcupine ran up a tree and disaster was averted.

Regina Watts

Red Cedar River

Menomonie, Wisconsin, Wed, May 19—A wide and mostly straight river with huge flat rocky stone plates which cause most of the trips to have soft waves and riffles. It is no surprise that this section is used by a tubing outfitter. We were greeted at the put-in by scores of swallows who had nests below the

bridge and a huge blue heron. We followed many great and lesser herons downstream along with several bald eagles and other birds. At one point a saw three great blues together! One thing I did not see was a "Red Cedar", or any cedar at all. I did see red honeysuckle, red sand and rocks, red pines and cardinals, but not Red Cedar. Go Figure!

Regina Watts

East Fork of the Black River

Pray, Wisconsin, to East Fork State Park, Thu, May 20—My first impression of this trip was the dozens of ticks that attacked us at the put-in; it was a real "Tick Heaven". My impression quickly changed as we paddled downstream. Tons of phlox, trillium and wild violets lined the somewhat park-like setting, the river ranged from 60–120 ft wide. There are no gauges on the East Fork, but we had a good 2–3 ft. of water and a good flow. Sporadically, we came across giant rocks and limestone outcroppings. Deer was sighted along with woodpeckers, bald eagles, swallows, turtles and a water snake. Long stretches of flat water were interrupted by the many class I pool and drops. And a few class II boulder gardens. This made things interesting, as this was a scouting trip, we did not know what to expect, other than the class II that we scouted from the one bridge that crossed this part. A pleasant surprise!

Regina Watts

Trempealeau River

Whitehall to Independence, Wisconsin, Sat, May 22—Smaller, mostly tree lined river with a nice current (gradient 4.7 fpm). We put in behind the muffler shop on Rt.121, with the blessing of the owner. The put in used previously is now permanently sealed. Several downed trees now block the path, the largest being almost 4 ft. in diameter! About 20 minutes downstream we had to portage a large tree, river right through the woods or a well worn path. There is a smattering of deadfall throughout the trip, but just the one portage. There are many sandbars that allow for "leg stretchers". Lots of Spring flowers, birds and deer were seen.

Regina Watts

Prairie State Canoeists

2011 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

Pedal, Paddle & Picnic.....October 3

Annual Meeting and Dinner.....November 20

Coming in 2011

New Year's Day Paddle January 1

Trip Leaders Meeting..... January TBA

January Social TBA

February Social TBA

Training Schedule Dates TBA

Introduction to Paddling,

Moving Water 1

Moving Water 2

Whitewater

Rescue Clinic

Introduction to Canoe Camping

Introduction to Wilderness Tripping

Trip Leaders, Post Your Trips on the Web Site

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. Announcements and reports received in hard copy will be entered on the web site

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

Stan Popelar, 7190 Thomas Drive, Loves Park, Illinois 61111, 815-885-1502.

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.