



PSC Paddler

The Newsletter of the Prairie State Canoeists

Trip Announcements

Please Call The Trip Leader If You Plan To Attend

DuPage River Sweep Winfield- West Chicago

June 1, Saturday
Clean-Up

Ray Ziemer /Dawn Ziemer 630-836-0086
rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

Join hundreds of volunteers all over DuPage County for the Conservation Foundation's annual DuPage River clean-up. Our group plans to concentrate on the section of the river through Winfield and West Chicago. Bring lunch, work gloves, and your favorite pick-up tools. Car-shift at 9:30 a.m. Call leader for details.

Eagle Spring Lake plus, WI

June 1, Saturday Advanced Beginner
Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

About 15 miles SW of Milwaukee we'll paddle Eagle Spring Lake, a channel, Lulu Lake, Brush Creek and lunch on a scenic overlook. We'll then loop back to the put-in which is west of Mukwonago. Call for information

Rock River, Illinois

June 2, Sunday Advanced Beginner
Bob and Linda Alwitt 847 480-9477
bobandlin@aol.com, Joan Taylor 630 495-1565
TAYLORJRS@aol.com

Come and paddle 10 miles on a wide river with beautiful rock formations, forested banks and motor boat-limiting shallow water. We will take a break and climb Castle Rock. Carshift at 9:30. Put in downstream from the dam at Oregon. Take Rt. 64 west of Chicago area to Oregon, IL. Turn right, north on River Rd about 1/2 block to Oregon Park on the left. Bring lunch, dump bag, registered boat, and life jacket. Please let us know you are coming.

Pine and Little Manistee Rivers,

Lower Michigan
June 7-12, Friday-Wednesday or come for the weekend. Advanced Beginner
Joan Taylor 630 495-1565
TAYLORJRS@aol.com
Come and paddle on the beautiful, exciting but forgiving rivers of Lower Michigan. We will camp at Paddlesports Center and Campground just south of the Pine on Route MI 37. We will car shift each day from the campground at 8:30 a.m. Chicago time. Note: I am looking for an assistant leader. Take I94 east to 196 to MI 37 and go north to the campground or

Year 2002 Officers

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773-777-1489
canoedic@iwc.net

Co-Chair ('02) -

Larry Forgala
708-425-0733

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Web Site/Telephone Hot Line

PSC Web Site Check out the PSC web site: <http://www.psc.ctsserver.com>. Members receive a password to access detailed trip info, on-line newsletter, trip pics and more.

Hotline for late trip postings: call Bob Kane at 815-744-8129 if you are planning a last minute river trip and would like us to put an entry on the web for you. Include the details of when and where, with your name and a phone number to contact you.

PSC Items For Sale

PSC T-shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available from Christina Taylor at 708-445-0871; E-mail: peace4368@aol.com. Christina can bring your shirts to a trip or send via UPS.

Notices

Canoeing Partner Wanted 80 year old canoeist wants someone to go on short trips on Skokie Lagoons--weekdays preferred. I have a 36lb light-weight tandem canoe(kevlar spectra Nova Craft Bobs Special). Call Larry 847 291 0006

Thank-you An attempt was made to make a dent in Sauk Lake. on Tue. 4/23rd due to a break in the weather. Several garbage bags of recyclable stuff ie cans, glass & plastic bottles & some misc. stuff were gathered. I received some interesting inquiries about this from some people whom I do not know. Chuck Dieringer, a drainage engineer who lives in Chicago Heights called me. He sounds very enthusiastic & passionate about the entire Thorn Creek waterway of which Sauk Lake is a small part. He talked my ear off about salmon and a possible whitewater park; we should all have his enthusiasm. He got my name from a Dr. Jon Mendelson of Gov. State U. whom I also have not had the pleasure of meeting. I also got an e-mail from John Joyce who is head of the Recreation & Parks Dept. of the Village of Park Forest whom I do happen to know. Anyway, my note made an interesting trip to parts unknown & I must say THANK-YOU to whoever is responsible. Allen Close

Swap Meet

If you have equipment to trade or sell, send the information to the newsletter editor. Please let us know if your item has sold and confirm that you want the ad to appear in the next issue.

Aquatera Chinook 16' sea kayak, yellow never been in the water. \$750. S. Vilaro svilaro@netzero.net

Blackhawk Nighthawk 12' solo, Kevlar, wood gunwales. \$600 Beth Sandles 773-271-3415

Canadienne 1988-89, white GRP with aluminum trim, 3 paddles, 3rd passenger seat. Pulley halyard system for stowing canoe in overhead of garage. 1/2 of a car carrier (used station wagon rack for back end). 2001 registration. Practically new condition. \$700 complete. Gary Nelson, gnelson@zynrgy.com

Older **Folbot Super** collapsible kayak - fully functional. \$200. Add another \$100 for downwind sail and rudder. Call 815-941-2462.

Frese built 18' 1/2" Canadian. This boat has gorgeous mahogany and spruce trim with mahogany decks. The yellow fiberglass hull is in excellent condition. A fine looking & paddling canoe. \$1200.00 Call Neil Hedlund at 773 419 6437 and leave message.

Mad River Rampage 13' whitewater open canoe, outfitted, \$800.

Mad River Fantasy 13' whitewater open canoe, outfitted, \$450. **Perception** WW paddle, helmet, dry tops, and other miscellaneous WW gear. **Grumman** 17' canoe with center seat/portage yoke attachment and starter paddles, \$600. **Old Town** HW Model wood and canvas 16' canoe with antique beaver tail paddles, \$600, needs recanvassing, but wood is sound. **Sevylor** inflatable 1 or 2 person 10 1/2' kayak w/ double paddle, pump, and seat, \$75. Joan Healy 847-63 4-8859 or ladymusher@aol.com.

Mad River 16' solo large volume tripping fiberglass \$300, alum john boat 10' \$250, **raft** white water rubber 8' & 6' \$150 & \$75. Portable rowboat \$200 Bob Warren 630-739-6040.

Mad River Quest fiberglass canoe. Has 3 cane seats. Good condition. \$400. Add another \$100 for lateen sailing rig for the canoe. Call 815-941-2462.

Merrimack Baboosic, kevlar 14' solo canoe. \$695 Larry Thomason 309-344-4511.

Pat Moore Reverie I Solo Canoe \$600 New **Dagger** Freefall LT Whitewater Kayak new price \$1,000 for \$600 New **New Wave** Cruise Control Whitewater Kayak \$600 New **Dagger** Baja Touring Kayak (replaced by the Prospect) \$1,199.99 for \$900 Ron Thompson 309-266-9670 canoesetc@aol.com

Old Town Canadienne, 1984, 17', Green, will consider trade for Solo canoe, Dennis Breski, (847) 651-5959.

Old Town 17' newly restored wood and canvas canoe. Excellent condition. Eight coats of interior varnish. A beautiful boat to paddle. \$1900. Paddles included. Contact Leo Krusack.

Wilderness System Kevlar Sea Kayak 14 ft, 35 lbs.in good condition. Has a rear storage hatch. Asking \$850 with floatation and fiberglass paddle. Price for new was \$1750. Mike Budrys at (t747826@earthlink.net)

Yakima racks 58" bar and towers Y9, Y2, Y4, Y13, ski accessory, canoe braces, \$100. Mike 773-594-9247.

Yakima Racks: for Round bars - 2 Double Cross Towers (attaches to car factory roof-rack), \$20, 2 Q-Towers (attaches to car w/o gutters), \$20, and Q-Clips Q35, \$5. Call Terri



Remaining Tentative 2002 Schedule

There will be trips added and deleted as the season progresses. Please check future newsletters, the PSC website and the hotline for the latest details. Check with the leader before finalizing trip plans. **Bold Entries** require advance contact.

- Fri 8/2 Fox River – Jerry Kolar
- Sat-Sun 8/3-4 Indiana Paddlers' Rendezvous, Wildcat Crk –Joan Taylor
- Sun 8/4 – Kishwaukee – The Shaws
- Thu 8/8 Kankakee River – Joan Taylor/Tony Spanley
- Sat 8/10 Kankakee River - Larry Forgala
- Sun 8/11 Kishwaukee Cleanup - Joan Taylor/Vic Hurtowy
- Sat-Sun 8/17-18 Kickapoo River Wisc. Joan & Christina Taylor
- Sat-Sun 8/18-19 Kankakee River – Dave & Sherri Johnson
- Sat-Mon 8/31-9/02 Namekagon River – Dave & Sherri Johnson
- Sat-Mon 8/31-9/2 Wisconsin River – Ed Nelson
- Sat-Fri 9/8-13 BWCAW – Ed Nelson
- Sat-Sun 9/28–29 Kickapoo River, WI – Dave & Sherri Johnson
- Sat-Mon 9/7-9 Section IV Wolf River WI. & Peshtigo River– Bill Barclay/Larry Rice
- Sat-Sun 9/14-15 Pine River MI – Barclay Strobel/The Cliffords
- Sun 9/22 Chicago River Flatwater Classic – Ray Ziemer
- Sat 9/28 Lower Fox River – Larry Forgala
- Sat-Sun 9/28-29 Fawn & Pigeon Rivers – Jerry Emerson / The Cliffords
- Sat 10/12 Wolf & Peshtigo Rivers – Bill Barclay/Larry Rice
- Sat-Thu 10/12-17 Pine River - Joan Taylor/Mark Rothman
- Sun 10/10 I&M Canal -Larry Forgala
- Sat-Sun 10/26-27 Wisconsin Dells -Igyartos
- Sun 11/3 Pecatonica River – Joan & Christina Taylor
- Sun 11/10 PSC Fall Dinner, time and place TBA.
- Wed-Tue 11/27–12/3 Florida Rivers, Basecamping – Ed Nelson**
- Mon-Fri 12/2-6 Panhandle Rivers, FL – Carole Snowden 414-962-0879 Karen Wedde**
- Weds 01/03 17th annual New Years Day N. Branch of the Chicago River – Vic Hurtowy

New Members Welcomed to PSC

The following individuals and families have recently joined the Prairie State Canoeists. We welcome them to the PSC family and hope this is the beginning of a long and enjoyable association for all of us.

- Ed Arb - Savanna,IL
- Josephine Barrett - Lisle,IL
- Carol Chaudoin - Chicago,IL
- Russell & Mary Ellen Cook - LaGrange,IL
- Bernie & Lynn Cox - Pickle Lake,ON
- Richard Delezen - Morris,IL
- Scott Deuel - Chicago,IL
- Patrick Donahue - Streamwood,IL
- Richard Dvorak - Darien,IL
- Daniel & Carol Faust - Pontiac,IL
- Karen Frieden - Arlington Heights,IL
- August Greidanus - Schaumburg,IL
- Tony & Terri Guisti - Poplar Grove,IL
- Jess Hines - Wheaton,IL
- Gerald & Cynthia Hoff - Itasca,IL
- David Hurt - Spring Grove,IL
- Glenn & Elaine Jensen - Berwyn,IL
- Rhonda Joseph - Silver Lake,WI
- Koc Garry - Addison,IL
- Priscilla Hensel - Oak Park,IL
- Lee & Laura Kochel - Wheaton,IL
- Steve & Nancy Kulpa - Villa Park,IL
- Isabell Kyrk - Wilmette,IL
- Harold & Pamela Lassers - Elmhurst,IL
- Jeff Mahaffa - Schaumburg,IL
- Henry & Dotty Marsh - East Dundee,IL
- Les & Lyn Naleval - LaGrange,IL
- Ruth Oberg - Wheaton,IL
- Przemek Panek - Chicago,IL
- Larry Peterson - Highland,IN
- Robert & Marilyn Pfeifer - Addison,IL
- John & Mary Puskar - Warrenville,IL
- Daniel & Gale Sabatino - Chicago,IL
- Frank Sassetti - Chicago,IL
- Ken Schossow - Lily Lake,IL
- Tod Shafer - Channahon,IL
- Tom & Vera Shively - Hinsdale,IL
- James & Joann Scholl - Lake in the Hills,IL
- John Silver - Arlington Heights,IL
- Mark & Pam Skeels - Kirkland,IL
- Michael & Michelle Skrypek - Naperville,IL
- Bob & Martha Sobie - Glen Ellyn,IL
- Kelly Stewart - Bollingbrook,IL
- David & Mary Stjern - Springfield,IL
- Jim & Deb Talkington - Argyle,IL
- John & Penny Thon - Manitowok,WI
- Randy & Laura Verink - Frankfort,IL
- James & Joan West - Oak Forest,IL
- Thomas & Vickie Wilmot - Burbank,IL

Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	For Trips
5	July 7	August – September
6	September 7	October – November

Published newsletter contains all content received prior to close of business on deadline date. Sorry, no exceptions.

Send address changes to Bob Kane, sign-in sheets to Larry Forgala, and trip reports to Mark Rothman, paddle@ad hoc-solutions.com (emailed trip reports will be published in the newsletter) Trip leaders do not have to use the pre-stamped envelopes for trip reports – e-mail if you can.



Trip Announcements

(Continued from page 1)

take 196 to 131 to Highway 10 at Reeds City and go west to Baldwin where you take 37 north to the campground. The camp is 300 miles from the western suburbs. Paddling permits are needed for certain sections of the river and can be obtained in Baldwin at the Forest Service office on the south side of town during office hours. Parking permits can be purchased at the campground. Please let me know when you plan to paddle.

DesPlaines River

June 9, Sunday Advanced Beginner
Bob Kane 815-744-8129 paddler@cbcast.com The
Igyartos 847-587-7462

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will be hosting the 19th annual 'Island Rendezvous' this weekend at the Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville. A Voyageur encampment, craft and souvenir vendors, etc. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. We will be stopping here for lunch. From Chicago take I-55 southwest to the Lemont Road exit and go south. After Bluff Rd. the next right is a frontage road prior to crossing the big bridge. Take this frontage road over the river to the put-in. Carshift is at 9:30 sharp!

Fox River, WI

June 15, Saturday Advanced Beginner
Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

The put-in will be in Community Park in Big Bend. We'll paddle upstream toward the Mukwonago River. This is a scenic area and borders on being a scouting trip. The put-in and take-out are the same. Call.

Pere Marquette River, MI

June 15 – 16 Saturday – Sunday Beginner
Barclay/Strobel 708-386-1371 Anita and Mike Budrys
847-735-0810

The Pere Marquette is one of the most beautiful rivers in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. It is a fairly gentle river that winds between sandy and wooded banks with one short Class I rapids. Wildlife include deer, turkey, blue heron, beaver, etc. Directions: from Chicago take I-94/I-196 to Grand Rapids. Take MI 37 north 65 - 70 miles to North Avenue (1 mile north of Baldwin MI.) Turn right for 1 mile and then left at Putnam's. Sites

will be reserved for PSC. (Alternate route: from Chicago take I-94/I-196 north to Holland; then take MI 31 north to MI 10, near Ludington. Go right (east) on MI 10 to MI 37 and then right (south) to North Avenue and left to Putnam's.) On Saturday the car shift from the campground will be at 9:30 AM (Chicago time). The Pere Marquette is part of the wild and scenic river program and paddlers are required to obtain permits. You must contact the leaders at least two weeks in advance to assure permit availability; there is a new \$2/day permit charge.

Lower Fox River, Rt. 52 To Wedron

June 16, Sunday
Larry Forgala 708/425-0733, larryfor@msn.com

Mother nature isn't giving us a full moon at the right time, so there is no moonlite paddle this year. So, lets get together and paddle the "Dells of the Fox" on a early summers day. Directions: take I-55 south to rt. 52 (shorewood exit west). Continue west approx. 26 miles to the river. Put-in is at the NE corner of the bridge. Carshift at 9:30A.M.

Beginning whitewater

June 22 – 23, Saturday - Sunday
Kim Parsons 414-764-2827

This is the second of our trips designed for paddlers learning the art of whitewater canoeing; a good chance to apply all those moves you learned in the white water clinic.. We will paddle rivers in northern WI, with the choice of rivers dependent upon water levels and the groups' interest/experience. Likely candidates re again the Pike, Oconto, Wolf, Sections I and/or II, Peshtigo Section II, etc. There will be no rapids rated above Class II on this trip. This is a chance to build skills and confidence with support of other paddlers. Call the leaders for details regarding camping, meeting places, etc.

Cedar Creek

June 22, Saturday
Joette or Terry Heckenbach, 262/376-4230 or 414/659-3131 or jtnj@netwurx.net .
Directions: From either I43 or I45 or I41, take State Hwy. 60 to the eastside of the village of Jackson. Take

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Division Road (same as Highway G) north one mile. Immediately north of the bridge, east side of road is put-in. Car-shift: 10:00 am. Majority of trip is through the Jackson Marsh, a wildlife preserve. Creek is free flowing and not marshy. Total trip is 9.3 miles. Bring lunch to eat on creek. Take-out: Covered Bridge Park, site of the last of the original covered bridges in Wisconsin. There is an alternate take-out at 5 miles for anyone interested. Those with the energy could canoe 14.5 miles to the center of historic Cedarburg. Call ahead to check conditions;

Root River, MN, Canoe & Bicycle

June 23/29 Sun/Sat Advanced Beginner

Carol & Tom Gorman 630-469-0070

Marge & Harve Keil 847-526-8890

This is a beautiful area, a great paved bike trail and a very nice river to paddle. We plan two days on the North branch and one day on South Branch if the water level permits. Then we will do 2-3 days on the bike trail. DIRECTIONS: call leaders. The campground has electric, flush toilets and hot showers. Travel time is about 7 hours (330 miles from Chicago area). We will base camp there. Campsites cannot be reserved, but please call either leader if coming. We will be in camp Sunday afternoon (June 23).

Du Page

June 29, Saturday

Chip Flagg 630 231 9085

Wisconsin River

July 4, Thursday

Dave & Sherri Johnson, 815-634-2811

canoeseew@uti.com or djohnson@uti.com

DuPage River

July 6, Saturday

Chip Flagg 630 231-9085 (call early evening)

We will do a pleasant paddle from Hammel Woods to Sheply Road. Take I-55 south to Rt. 52, exit west to Rt. 59 (1st light). Turn right going north to 1st light, Black Road. Turn right again and enter Hammel Woods. Proceed to the canoe access. Carshift at 9:30.

Du Page River

July 7, Sunday

Joan Taylor/Jon Gaut 630 495-1565 TAYLORJRS@aol.com

Mecan River, Wis

July 13 & 14 Beginner/Advanced beginner

John & Marilyn Ziegler (847) 742- 7316, Christina Taylor (708) 445-0871

The Mecan is a small spring fed river with a steady current and sandy bottom. Numerous downfalls and twists in the river can make for interesting paddling. We will be camping at Mecan River Outfitters at the primitive group site. All campers must stop at the lodge to check in. Tell them that you are with Prairie State Canoeists. Call leaders for more info on the campground. Mecan River Outfitters (920-295-3439) is located 3 1/2 miles west of Princeton on Hwy 23 or 6 1/2 miles east of Montello on Hwy 23. Please call trip leaders.

Lower Fox

July 14, Sunday

Beginner

John & Barb Shaw phone 630-961-3479 e-mail john.shaw@gsa.gov

Call or e-mail trip leader for directions and put-in time as we are undecided about where we want to put in.

Little Manistee River MI

July 20 - 21 Beginner and Intermediate trips

Paul and Alice Clifford 815-886-2554, Barclay/Strobel 708-386-1371

This is a surpassingly beautiful river in lower Michigan not yet (and maybe never) in the Wild and Scenic River program (between the Pere Marquette and Pine Rivers off highway MI 37); crystal clear water, more wildlife than people. The first day is a beginner trip; the second day is an intermediate trip because of fast water (no rapids) and tight bends. Paddlers will need ability to back paddle, ferry, draw, pry and eddy to do the second day. We will stay at Bear Track Camp ground: Rte 31 north from Ludington to Freesoil Rd; go right (east) on Freesoil Rd to Campbell Rd (approx 8 mi); go left (north) on Campbell Rd to Riverside Rd (4 - 5 miles); go right (east) on Riverside Rd. to the campground (approx 4 miles). Call the

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leaders for a map and additional details.

Pine and Little Manistee Rivers, Lower Michigan
July 17-21, Wednesday-Sunday or come for the week-
end.

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565 TAYLORJRS@aol.com
Tom Richardson 630 832-3523 tomrichardson@attbi.
com

Come and paddle on the beautiful, exciting but forgiv-
ing rivers of Lower Michigan. We will camp at Paddle-
sports Center and Campground just south of the Pine on
Route MI 37. We will car shift each day from the
campground at 8:30 a.m. Chicago time. Take I94 east to
I196 to MI 37 and go north to the campground or take
196 to 131 to Highway 10 at Reeds City and go west to
Baldwin where you take 37 north to the campground.
The camp is 300 miles from the western suburbs. Pad-
dling permits are needed for certain sections of the river
and can be obtained in Baldwin at the Forest Service
office on the south side of town during office hours, 9
am - 6 pm. Parking permits can be purchased at the
campground. Please let one of us know when you plan
to paddle.

Blue River, Southern Indiana

July 23-25 Tuesday-Thursday

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565 TAYLORJRS@aol.com

Tony Spanley 219 867-2461

Paddling depends on water level. Email Joan or call
Tony for info.

Paddling in the Park

7/27-28 Saturday-Sunday

A two-day canoeing and kayaking festival, workshop,
history lesson and trade show. Paddling lessons, clin-
ics, demo boats, voyageur canoes and dragon boat rides.

Lots to see and do for the entire family. Twin Lakes
Recreational Area, Palatine, Illinois

Donna Goldman 847-475-4794

Wildcat Creek

Sat-Sun 7/27-28

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565 TAYLORJRS@aol.com

TRIP REPORTS

*(In order to reduce the transcription of narratives from
the manual trip reports to the newsletter, we are working
to establish a form-based reporting system on the club's
website. Until that is online, please send an email copy
of your trip report to the editor if you'd like to share
your experience with club members via the newsletter.)*

Florida Rivers – Jan. 16-24 – Although this was not a
club trip, I think most PSC members would be interested
in hearing about this trip, so I'm sending a trip report.
During our two week visit we paddled Juniper, Alexan-
der, Salt, and Silver Springs in Florida's Ocala National
Forest and the Homossassa Springs region.

Juniper Springs was the best. It was a seven mile run
that originates at the spring which is kind of like the be-
ginning of the Ichetucknee. Then it snakes its way for
seven miles of splendid isolation to a road and a landing.
We saw many birds, and the tropical scenery was beauti-
ful.

Alexander Springs starts wide, almost lake-like, then nar-
rows down to a smaller stream that goes off into a deep
wilderness. The gravel road down which we travelled for
the car shift was quite remote. We paddled about 7 miles
on this one too.

Salt Springs is like lake paddling. It's a four mile out and
back to Lake George, and it was like paddling a big lake
out to an ocean. It was a bit windy the day we went, and
we had to contend with motor boats, so I probably would-
n't want to do this one again.

Silver Springs is a four-mile upstream and back paddle in
one of the most beautiful tropical settings I've ever seen.
It was where they filmed the Tarzan movies, and there are
monkeys left over from the filming days. We also saw
gators and lots of birds. The only downside to this one
was there were also motor boats.

I paddled the Halls River out to Homossassa Springs one
day and the next day paddled the Chassahowitzka River
out to the Gulf and back, also paddling up Potter Creek, a
tributary of the Chassahowitzka. Then I turned around
and poled back. The poling was fun and I felt safer with
the pole to beat back the gators.

This whole Homossassa Region is quite beautiful and
tropical. There are thousands of islands along the shore
for a couple of miles before you get out to the open waters
of the Gulf. There is a long canoe trail, similar to the Ev-
erglades Waterway further south, that goes for about 100
miles along the Gulf Coast there, with good camping
spots, and much wildlife - gators, birds, manatees, etc.

We had 80 degree days and 60 degree nights most of the
time. The Juniper Springs Campground was one of the
best I've ever seen as each campsite is completely sur-



rounded by trees and palms. The Chassahowitzka River one was good too. It was like a tropical jungle of palms and junipers. Ed Nelson

WEST BRANCH, DUPAGE RIVER - March 24 – The promised snowfall held off, so we paddled along under the chilly winter sky, 2 tandems with a solo in the lead. Some new club members enjoyed the short trip through Timber Ridge and Winfield Mounds Forest Preserves. Low water, high spirits, middling mud. Raymond G. Ziemer

DuPage River – April 13 – Plainfield to Shorewood. Beautiful day for an easy paddle through the historic areas of Plainfield to Shorewood, Illinois. 14 people in 10 craft enjoyed mostly blue skies and pleasant temperatures. Lunch stop at Riverside Parkway south of Caton Farm Road. Portaged at Hammel Woods Dam to finish up at Seil Road Park. Raymond G. Ziemer

Turtle Creek - Scouting April 20 - More excitement than desired: immediately after School Scet Rd. Bridge where boats were shot thru culvert into the worst strainer we have seen. Lucky for the 2 of 4 boats that dumped that the water was not deeper. PFDs and dump clothes were put to good use. Wildlife sightings: (besides wet canoeists) sand hill crane, owl, muskrat and turtle. Gerry Mueller

DuPage Training April 21 - Four instructors, eight canoes left us with a 2:1 ratio; perfect for training. Thanks to Tom, Steve, and Paul for your help. I also wish to thank Mike, Anita and Andy for helping out as safety boats. Only 2 swims: not bad for this class. All in all a good day on the river. Bob Kane

DuPage River, Plainfield to Shorewood April 24
Beautiful day for an easy paddle through the historic areas of Plainfield to Shorewood, Illinois. 14 people in 10 craft enjoyed mostly blue skies and pleasant temperatures. Lunch stop at Riverside Parkway south of Caton Farm Road. Portaged at Hammel Woods Dam to finish up at Seil Road Park. Raymond G. Ziemer

Big Rock Creek – April 29 – The forecast was for rain and high winds, so it was a hardy group of nine who showed up. While it remained cloudy and cool, the day proved to be a lot of fun.. Big Rock is a demanding river that requires strong intermediate skills which are rewarded with being able to paddle one of the little known jewels of Northeastern Illinois. The Creek has three dams and a couple of logjam carryovers. There are a number of small class I rapids, and about fifteen minutes before the takeout

we were rewarded by being able to paddle under a large heron rookery in some sycamore trees. During the day we saw a number of deer, and while we were running the shuttle at the end of the day we passed four fox kits sunning themselves along the road by Silver Springs State Park. Tom Lindblade

Fox River - Cleanup May 4 - Six people in 3 canoes picked up about 35 bags of trash. We could have doubled that if we had more people. John & Marilyn Zeigler

Big Rock Creek - May 5 - Eight people in 6 boats enjoyed 75°+ weather on this beautiful quick-flowing nearby stream. Three trees-ful of nesting great blue herons, three deer and tons of fish were seen. We also had a herd of cows charge at us only to stop suddenly as river's edge. Quite intimidating! Another herd with young crossed ahead of us. We gave them lots of room. All who came enjoyed this trip. Bob Kane

Middlefork of the Vermillion River – May 4-5 After checking the river at various points and finding 3.0 on the water level gauge, we gathered up our group of 7 PSC'ers and friends from the Champaign area, along with a host of other paddlers. They came from the Sierra Club, the Mackinaw Canoe Club, and one outdoors reporter with his friend from the Kankakee Daily Journal. We put in at Kinney Ford and paddled to Kickapoo State Park. There were some challenging spots along the way for the inexperienced, and a few got wet.

It was fast moving to the lunch stop where Clark Bullard gave us an interesting history lesson on the politics of the area. After lunch we paddled on to Windfall Prairie where Clark led us on a hike to the hillside prairie where Indian paintbrush was abundant. From there we proceeded on to the Indian mounds, for another most fascinating lecture of the Indian culture there. Near the end of the trip, a few people climbed the high bluffs for a spectacular view of the river and the strip mine ponds.

Sunday was a warm, sunny day and the water level was 2.8 on the gauge, plenty for a nice float to Danville City Park. On down stream the waterfall was flowing quite heavy and across the river were a couple of trees with several large and crude looking nests in the upper branches. At least one nest was occupied with a baby (blue heron ?) waiting for dinner. After we gathered a few souvenirs for the rock garden, we proceeded up the short stretch of the North Fork to the waiting cars.

All agreed that the weather and water level was the best we have had in several years on the Middlefork.

Larry & Evelyn Tennyson

Membership Application/Renewal Form, Year 2002



Dues: \$15. Make checks payable to Prairie State Canoeists. Complete, sign and mail to Bob Kane, 305 Westshore Drive, Shorewood IL 60431. Check if this is a new address

Read and Sign Below

I agree that I will take part in 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 or property loss I may incur while taking part in club activities. I UNDERSTAND PADDLING IS AN ASSUMED RISK SPORT AND I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SELF/FAMILY. I AM 21 YEARS OR OLDER. ALL ADULTS MUST SIGN.

Signed _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Spouse Last Name _____

Spouse First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

First names of children under 21. Include age. _____

Telephone (incl. area code) _____

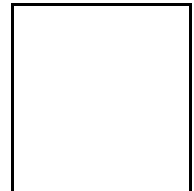
E-mail Address _____

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Print My E-mail Address in Directory? Yes No

I want the newsletter: by postal mail. by downloading from PSC website. notify me by email when available on site

**Prairie State Canoeists
c/o Bob Kane
305 Westshore Drive
Shorewood IL 60431**



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