



PSC Paddler

The Newsletter of the Prairie State Canoeists

From the Chairman

"The Kish". As many of you know, my favorite river within a 2 hour drive of Chicago is the Kishwaukee and you can find me there at least twice a month starting in early spring and continuing until it's frozen. I'm teased on occasion by my paddling friends for paddling the "same" river as often as I do. But reality, at least for me, is that this stream tells a different story every time I'm on it. Considered to be one of the cleanest rivers in Illinois, the Kishwaukee offers great scenery and biodiversity. Sightings of hawks, herons, and many different song birds makes it hard to believe that it's so close to both Rockford and Chicago. Fishermen will find northern pike, small mouth bass and walleyes here. In mid spring the red tailed sucker runs upstream to spawn. (red tailed suckers are a barometer for clean water as they don't tolerate pollution well)

As I paddle down any river I try to imagine what the landscape was like 200-300 years ago-about the time that the French were establishing trade with the natives and using North America's waterways to deliver their goods in exchange for furs.

As I'm paddling I try to imagine a river that

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Trip Announcements

Please Call The Trip Leader If You Plan To Attend

Fox River

August 2, Friday
Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

Wildcat Creek Rendezvous, Indiana

August 3-4, Saturday-Sunday
Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com.

This is the annual Wildcat Rendezvous including camping Friday & Saturday at Wildcat Park, two days of paddling, a chili supper and auction. From Jct I-65/Ind. 26, go west on 26 toward Lafayette 1.0 mile to 2nd stoplight. Right-turn onto Co Rd 350-East (Creasy Lane). Go 1.9 miles until you cross Wildcat Creek. Right turn (at far end of bridge) onto Eisenhower Road. Go 1.8 miles to Wildcat Park, on right. Saturday's trip is from Knop Lake Fishing Area to Wildcat Park. Car shift between 7:30-8:45. Sunday's trip is from Wildcat Park to Davis Ferry Park (on the Wabash). Shuttle leaves at 9 AM sharp. For info, call Joan Taylor. Please let me know you are coming.

Kishwaukee River

August 4, Sunday
John & Barb Shaw 630-961-3479
john.shaw@gsa.gov

Take I-90 toward Rockford. Be alert for milepost 61. Exit at U.S.20. Go a short distance to the Belvidere exit. Proceed east on Hwy 20 a half mile to the Cherry Valley exit. At the first stop light turn right and proceed to the first intersection (stop sign). Turn left. Cross the bridge to the first street on the right. Turn right into Bauman park. The boat launch is located on the first road on the right after the playground. Car Shift will be at 9:30. PFD's required, dump clothes always recommended and bring your lunch.

Year 2002 Officers

Chairman ('02) -

Vic Hurtow
773-777-1489
canoevic@iwc.net

Co-Chair ('02) -

Larry Forgala
708-425-0733

Secretary ('02-'03) -

Ruth Igyarto
847-587-7462

Treasurer ('01-'02) -

Bob Kane
815-744-8129
paddler@cbcast.com

Training Coordinator -

Sandy Bate
847-587-7623

ACA Representative -

Sigrid Pilgrim
847-328-0145

Board of Directors

Kim Parsons ('01-'02)
414-764-2827

Christina Taylor ('01-'02)
708-445-0871

Carole Snowdon ('01-'02)
414-962-0879

Bob Fenger ('02-'03)
847-356-2171

Donna Goldman ('02-'03)
847-475-4794

Louis Igyarto ('02-'03)
847-587-7462

Larry Tennyson ('02-'03)
630-497-2516

Newsletter Editor

Mark Rothman
847-674-6726
4019 N Narragansett Ave
Chicago, IL 60634
paddle@adhoc-solutions.com
(email preferred)



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

I am a PSC member going on a canoeing vacation in Michigan from 8/10-8/18/02. Myself and my two sons, ages 7 and 10, will be camping at Paddlesports Center and Campground on the Pine River. My plan is to canoe the Pine River, Manistee and Pere Marquette during the week. If any like minded families or individuals will be in the area and want to set up a shuttle and share a river trip, please contact me. I will bring my "big" canoe in the hope that I can find others in the campground who will want to shuttle, but local rental is also OK if that is the only option available. Gary Konecny Portage, IN 219-947-7985 gkonecny@aol.com

Canoeing Enthusiast Wanted I wish to paddle the Des Plaines River from Wisconsin to Romeoville, I need some one join me, you must have your own boat to paddle, I have solo canoe. Call Dennis 847-776-006-Home or 847-651-5959 Cellular

Cleanup Trips

Occasionally the Club offers its members and friends an experience called a Clean-up trip. If you have thought about coming, felt unsure and didn't come, please read the following Email a leader received following one of these trips. "Hey and thanks. I will definitely do a river clean again and be better prepared next time. It was a great paddle combined with the thrill of getting close to obstacles instead of avoiding them. I would describe it like an Easter egg hunt for garbage that I wouldn't miss for all the world. It strengthened my skills and especially my confidence.

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.

PFDs, Omega 'ribbed"-style 1)large,1)medium-\$20.00 ea. 1/8" thick wetsuits-farmer john style- worn only once 1)large,1)medium-\$35.00 ea. Call 847-680-1848-Gerry Mueller

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 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. 630-469-7144

Wilderness System Kevlar Sea Kayak 14 ft, 35 lbs.in good condition. Has a rear storage hatch. Asking \$850 with flotation 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.

- 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

From the Chairman

(Continued from page 1)

hasn't been levied, a river where the land hasn't been plowed to the edge of its banks and concrete slabs replace the greenway, a river with out beer cans, tires, shopping carts and picnic tables carelessly thrown there by those who would offend nature...a river where the water was once pure enough to drink.

So if any of you would like to join me on my beloved Kish just give me a call during the week and I'll let you know where I'll be putting in. And if you're offended as much as I am by those who have no regard for nature, please join Joan Taylor and me on the cleanup we're running August 11th. You'll feel good about yourself afterwards, I guarantee it!

Happy paddling,

Vic

"Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself"

-Chief Seattle-

Newsletter Deadlines		
Issue	Deadline	For Trips
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@adhoc-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.		

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Kankakee River, Indiana.

August 8, Thursday.
Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565
taylorjr@aol.com.

Tony Spanley, 574 867-2461.

Put in on Route 39 by Route 8. Car shift is at 10 a.m. Take 80/94 east to 421, south to Route 8, east to Route 39 and north to the river.. Please let me know you are coming.

DesPlaines River Cleanup

August 10. Saturday.

Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565, taylorjr@aol.com

John Gaut.

Put In at 9:30. Paddle from below Dam One to Big Bend Lake, 7 miles. Take 294 North to Willow Rd. Go west on Willow Road to Sanders Road. Go north to Route 68. Go west on 68 to a road on the east side of the river. Go south to Dam One. Bring gloves, a rake or stick with a nail on the end, lunch and lots of water. Please let us know you are coming. Trip may change if water is too low.

Kankakee River

August 10, Saturday
Larry Forgala 708-425-0733

Kishwaukee Cleanup,

August 11, Sunday

Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565, taylorjr@aol.com, Vic Hurtowy, canoevic@iwc.net

Meet at 10 a.m. for car shift. Take I90 toward Rockford. Be alert for milepost 61. Exit at US 20. Go a short distance to the Belvidere exit. Proceed east on 20 to the Cherry Valley exit. At the first stop light turn right and proceed to the first intersection (stop sign). Turn left. Cross the bridge to the first street on the right. Turn right into Bauman Park. The boat launch is located on the first road on the right beyond the playground. Bring PFDs, gloves, dump clothes, lunch and lots of water. A rake or stick with a nail or hook is helpful also. Please let me know you are coming.

Kickapoo River, Wisconsin

August 17-18, Saturday & Sunday

Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565, taylorjr@aol.com, Christina Taylor, 708 445-0871, peace4368@aol.com.

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Trip Announcements

(Continued from page 3)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Brush Creek Campground or 10 a.m. at Bridge 12. (We will paddle the first part, Ontario to Bridge 12 on Sunday). Take I90/94 west from Madison exit SR82 west at Mauston (milepost 69). Follow SR 82 to SR 80. Go south through Elroy to SR 33 west at Union Center. Take 33 west and pass RT.131. Continue 3 miles west to 17th Avenue. Take 17th south 1/2 mile to the Brush Creek Camp Ground. Reservations are made in the name of Prairie State for a group. Please let us know you are coming.

Kankakee River, IL

August 17, Saturday

Beginner

Dave and Sherri Johnson, 815-634-2811

canoesew@uti.com

(Also see trip listing for Sunday, August 18--Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park.) We will paddle from Bird Park in Kankakee to the boat landing and Class D Campground just west of Warner Bridge Road/Kankakee River State Park. This stretch is known for more rocks, gradient, numerous islands and some beautiful limestone outcroppings. We usually stop to have lunch at the picnic tables in the State Park and later hike the Rock Creek Canyon if there is interest. Directions: Take IL RT 17 or IL RT 113 to where they intersect on the west side of Kankakee at the Kankakee River. On the west side of the river, IL RT 113 (Wall Street) ends at IL RT 17. Go south on Wall Street to the first driveway; turn left into Bird Park and follow the road to the left under the bridge to the boat landing. Carshift at 9:30am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend.

Kankakee River, IL

August 18, Sunday

Beginner

Dave and Sherri Johnson, 815-634-2811

canoesew@uti.com

(Also see trip listing for Saturday, August 17--Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park). We will paddle from the IN/IL state line to Momence. The view at the put-in is rather amazing. When you look upstream you see the Kankakee River Ditch in Indiana that was engineered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. When you look downstream, you see the natural curves and shoreline to the untouched portion in Illinois. The stretch has some cottages on it but is quiet. This area is part of the "Grand Kankakee Marsh", a wetlands restoration project. Directions: The put-in is at the intersection of State Line Road and the River at the North

side (DO NOT try to access this from the south because the bridge is closed!). You may access State Line Road from IL RT 17. Go south of RT 17 approximately 3 miles to the closed bridge at the river. There is a large gravel parking lot on the left. Carshift at 10:00 am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend.

Des Plaines River, Full Moon Cruise

August 22, Thursday

Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565, taylorjrs@aol.com

Andy Cocallas, 847-949-7203

Meet at Riverside Park at 6:30 for supper or 7:30 for car shift. Take 294 north to Route 176; go west to St. Marys Road. Go left (south) to first light, Old Rockland Road. Take a right, (west) over the river to first street on the left, River Road. Go south 1 block to Riverside Park. We will paddle two small portages if water is low. Take out is in Lincolnshire south of Route 22. Bring a flashlight. Please let us know you are coming. Trip may change if water is too low.

Dowagiac River, Michigan

August 25, Sunday

Joan Taylor, 630 495-1565, taylorjrs@aol.com.

Put in at the Dow-Wah-Jack's Canoe Rental. (There is a \$5. Charge per canoe/kayak. These folks do a great job of keeping the river clear.) Take 94 east into Michigan to exit 4A. Take US 12 east 22 miles to Business 12/Niles turnoff. Take Business 12 into and through Niles to junction with M51 just past St. Joseph River Bridge. Go north on M51 to the Dow-Wah-Jack's Canoe Rental. (4 miles north of Dowagiac). Please let me know you are coming.

WISCONSIN RIVER, Muscoda to Woodman

August 31-September 2, Sunday-Monday

Intermediate Camper

Ed Nelson, enelson@mc.net 847-382-3372

We will paddle from Muscoda to Woodman, spending three days camping on the sand bars. Bring enough water for the whole trip. There is a bottle ban on this river.

Directions: Take 14 from Madison to Gotham. Go west on 60 to highway 80 which is a four way stop. Turn left, cross the bridge and take the first left into Victora Park. The landing is there. Please be at the landing by 9 A. M. to unload so we can car shift at 9:30. For those coming Friday, I will be at the group camp in Victora Park (about two blocks east of the regular campground).

Namekagon River, WI Labor Day Weekend Trip

August 31-September 2, Saturday-Monday

Advanced Beginner/River Camping

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(Continued from page 4)

Dave and Sherri Johnson, 815-634-2811 canoesew@uti.com

This river is part of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. We will paddle from the County K landing below the Trego Dam to Riverside landing of the St Croix River. We will be river camping at campsites that are maintained by the National Park Service. The sites have pit toilets, fire rings and drinking water. We will paddle 34.5 miles in three days. This may seem like a lot, but we paddled the first 10 miles in two hours on this trip in previous years.

The Namekagon flows an average of 3 miles per hour in this stretch. We will do about 14 miles Saturday, 12-17 miles Sunday, and 4.5-7.5 miles Monday. This shouldn't be too taxing and should allow us all to be setting up camp in mid-afternoon Saturday and Sunday and to be on the road heading home around noon on Monday. The drive to the Trego, WI area requires approximately 4 hours from Madison, WI. If you would like to participate in a community/shared dinner on Saturday night, please let me know. Please call/e-mail for more details.

Wisconsin Whitewater

September 7-8, Saturday-Sunday Advanced
Larry Rice 309-246-8351
Bill Barclay 708-386-1371

We will paddle whitewater rivers in northern WI including the Wolf and the Peshtigo. The choice of rivers will depend upon water levels and temperature. Likely choices are Wolf (Section IV) and Peshtigo (Section III). Wet/dry suits, helmets required

BWCAW Wilderness Camping

September 8-13, Sunday-Friday
Ed Nelson 847-382-3372 enelson@mc.net
Call or email me for information. email preferred.

Pine River, MI

September 14-15, Saturday-Sunday Advanced Beginner
Bill Barclay/Peg Strobel 708-386-1371
Alice and Paul Clifford 815-886-2554

We will paddle two days on the Pine River (Elm Flats to Low Bridge), returning to camp after the first day. The Pine is a beautiful river with moderate to quick current and one stretch of Class I rapids. Tight bends and chutes, especially on the second day, require basic paddling skills e. g. draws, prys, etc. The Pine is part of the wild and scenic river program. However, because we have moved this trip beyond the permit expiration date, we will not be required to obtain permits; the parking fee will be in ef-

fect, however (\$5 for the weekend). We will camp at Pine River Paddlesports Center on the left (west) side of highway 37 just before you cross the Pine River going north.

Chicago River Flatwater Classic

September 22, Sunday
Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086 rgziemer@worldnet.att.net

Wisconsin Whitewater

September 27-29, Friday-Sunday Intermediate whitewater
Bill Barclay 708-386-1371
Chuck Patrick 414-461-2018

Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Time to paddle - Pike, Peshtigo, Wolf.. River selection will depend upon water levels, paddler interests, and weather. Call leaders for details.

Lower Fox River

September 28, Saturday
Larry Forgala 708-425-0733, larryfor@msn.com

Eagle Spring Lake, WI

September 28, Saturday
Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187
Southwest of Milwaukee we'll paddle Eagle Spring Lake, a marsh channel, a scenic small lake and Crooked Creek. Lunch is on a scenic overlook. Limited card parking and a small lunch spot means a boat limit.

Fawn & Pigeon Rivers

September 28/29, Saturday/Sunday
Jerry Emerson 291-662-1296/ The Cliffords 815-886-2554

Kickapoo River, WI

September 28-29, Sat-Sun, Beginner
Dave & Sherri Johnson, 815-634-2811; canoesew@uti.com
John & Marilyn Ziegler, 847-742-7316

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



TRIP REPORTS

(In order to reduce the transcription of narratives from the manual trip reports to the newsletter, 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.)

Mazon River – April 6, 2002

The Mazon River is truly a wonderful river! Being so close to the Chicago suburban area and being so undisturbed.... The water level was a little high but not too high; there were still areas to play and the weather was very nice. A GREAT DAY!!!

Sherri Johnson

Nippersink Creek – April 7

We had eight hearty folks come on a cold, wet trip on the Nippersink. We enjoyed seeing the lunch stop which doubled as an early takeout and getting in our warm cars. We did see the resident owl who seems to be bigger than last year, teal, a very big blue heron, shorebirds, deer and sandpipers. Many thanks to Randy Harrison for checking out the take out.

Christina and Joan Taylor

Mazon River – April 27

Ten brave souls turned out to paddle a local favorite on a day that rain was imminent. We got back from the carshift just as it started to rain and it didn't let up until we got to the takeout. We opted not to stop for lunch and paddled straight to the takeout. The hike to put in is almost as long as the hike out at the takeout but not as sloppy. The rain made for tricky footing on the wet mud at the takeout but we were all happy that the rain had let up. I have made other arrangements for a different takeout next year. Thanks to All who came. Thanks to Steve Shapiro for carshift and to Bob Tyler for driver return.

Sherri Johnson

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

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. Along the way we visited the new memorial to the coal miners near the South end of Kickapoo State 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. All agreed that the weather and water level was the best we have had in several years on the Middlefork.

Larry & Evelyn Tennyson

Bark River – May 19

Seven paddlers enjoyed a cool but mostly sunny day on the Bark. The park where we usually put in is now closed off and the take out has a sign, "This is not a boat dock". The water was somewhat low but passable. We heard and saw an abundance of birds including a blue gray Gnat Catcher, a big Barred Owl, an abundance of yellow Warblers and American Red Starts, Tree Swallows and Red Wing Black Birds. We

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heard but did not see Sand Hill Cranes. Thanks to Jack Horbal for car shifting. Welcome to Dave Coulter on his first trip. He learned quickly and fit right in. Come back soon.

Christina and Joan Taylor

DesPlaines – May 25

Six paddlers and one very large Newfoundland Dog paddled from Route 60 to Route 68. This was a first time for Ollie and Priscilla Hensel, Mark and Thor Groseth. Welcome to the club and hope to see you soon. Thanks to Bill Kessler for carshifting.

Chip Flagg and Joan Taylor

Kishwaukee Clean-up - May 27

Mark and Merri Morrall and Joan Taylor

A very enthusiastic group of thirteen did a great clean-up job on the Kish from Cherry Valley to the Rock River on Memorial Day. Welcome to Cassandra Jordan who came out for a weekend of cleanup including two long days of paddling. Hope you come again soon. Thanks to Mark Skeels and Mark Morrall for the carshifting.

Niobrara River, NE – May 27-30

A dozen paddlers gathered on the banks of the designated Wild & Scenic Niobrara River in northern Nebraska on Memorial Day weekend. Basically quiet water, with Class I riffles, the Niobrara has three mandatory portages. Warm and sunny weather and fast current encouraged stops for hiking to Fort Falls and Smith Falls, at 70' the highest waterfall in Nebraska. A favorite lunch spot was the shade beside a riverfront waterfall.

The Niobrara is at the margin of eastern and western species. Old friends like the great blue heron, kingfishers, and eastern king birds were abundant, with special sightings of the black-headed grosbeak long-billed curlew, yellow-headed blackbird, loggerhead shrike, and burrowing owls standing sentinel over deserted prairie dog dwellings.

The sharp eyes of Frances Johnson, Cory Masiak, Ed Sternberg, and Mark Woodard enhanced identification of birds. Barbara Fitzpatrick, Karen Wedde, and Carole Snowdon managed the car shuttles. Cory Masiak shared a portion of *Old Jules* by native Nebraskan Mari Sandoz, in turn sparking Jan Gellerman's reminiscences of growing up on an isolated farm in North Dakota. Mark Woodard brought along an ample supply of firewood, and all present contributed wine, cheese and chips!

Carole Snowdon & Karen Wedde

Tippecanoe River - May 29/30.

In spite of a rainy weather forecast for two days, a group of three paddled from near Leiters Ford on day one and from Tippecanoe State Park to Winamac Town Park on Day two. It rained on the way out and back but not on the river. Tony was pleased to find some properly seasoned cottonwood bark for carving his wood spirits.

Joan Taylor and Tony Spanley

Wisconsin River – Memorial Day Weekend

Someone on this trip, while crossing the Wisconsin River on a bridge some time ago, looked down and saw some tents pitched on a sandbar and said to himself, that looks like fun. So, being a modern man, he got on the Internet, punched in Wisconsin River and Canoeing and was led to us. He joined the club, notified me that he wanted to go on this trip, showed up, and he had a great time. He also had blown-up satellite pictures of the river, and, for the first time, I was able to see from the air the sandbars we camped on. It was interesting.

The Wisconsin River is a playground for children, and there were many kids on this trip. As we sat gloomily under the tarps Saturday morning, waiting for a cold drizzle to stop, we wondered if we shouldn't base camp and do day trips. Among the adults no one had any strong feelings one way or the other, so it looked like I had to make a decision. I decided to put it to the kids, and when I asked which they preferred they all jumped up and down and yelled in unison THE SANDBARS! So we went ahead with the original plan of river camping, and it was the right decision. This was another memorable Memorial day Weekend on the Wisconsin.

Ed Nelson

DuPage River Sweep – June 1

West Branch, DuPage River, Winfield to West Chicago
Our clean-up was coordinated once again with the county-wide sweep sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. Four of us in three canoes collected more than our share of trash from the West Branch of the DuPage. Low water made it a bumpy trip, but the weather was great, with plenty of garbage in reach.

Raymond G. Ziemer

Rock River - June 2

All week prior to the trip, computer forecast was for heavy rain and thunderstorms. Twenty-three people came out for the paddle and were rewarded by cool, only a bit wet weather. Thanks to Jim Curry, Jack Horbal and Bob Tyler for the car shifting.

Bob and Linda Alwitt and Joan Taylor

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) _____

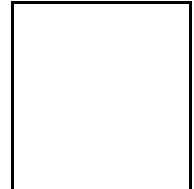
E-mail Address _____

Print My Name/Address in Directory? Yes No

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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