



KCA Rendezvous 2003 - May 17-18

By Cliff Long

□ Presentation Saturday evening by Charles Benjamin lobbyist for Sierra Club and Kansas Natural Resources Council. (Bring a chair or a pad) Followed by Dutch oven desserts, stories, and songs (bring a musical instrument if you can play it) around the campfire.

KCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President
Jackie Rawlings - Manhattan, KS
785-537-0164 / rawlings@kansas.net

President-Elect
vacant
[Looking for nominations]

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Belinda Cullen - Berryton, KS
785-379-9916 / pcullen@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer / Membership Data Base
Don Varnau - Lawrence, KS
785-841-1627 / dvarnau@swbell.net

Safety-Education
Mick O'Shea - Manhattan, KS
785-539-2279 / mjoshea@lycos.com

Internal Affairs
vacant
[Looking for a volunteer]

Marketing
Kail Katzenmeier - Manhattan, KS
785-776-0964 / kailk@kansas.net

Accessories / Video library
Pat Cullen - Berryton, KS
785-379-9916 / pcullen@sbcglobal.net

Activities
Cliff Long - Wichita, KS
316-253-9216 / clifflong@kansariverrat.com

Kids Chapter
Bill McClave - Overland Park, KS
913-685-9221 / wlmcclave@yahoo.com

Newsletter / Webmaster / Kayak Chapter
T.J. Hittle - P.O. Box 83 - Manhattan, KS 66505-0083
785-539-7772 / tjhittle@kansas.net

At-Large
Bob Harris - Hutchinson, KS
620-662-0346 / riverbob@southwind.net

At-Large
R.J. Stephenson - Tonganoxie, KS
913-845-2359 / rjsraft@sunflower.com

At-Large
Larry Storer - Frankfort, KS
785-292-4561 / larrystorer@yahoo.com

Together with the KCA Board's wishes to move the KCA Rendezvous around the state, Cliff Long, Eddy Beard and Bill Cather have graciously agreed to host the event near Wichita, KS at a site adjacent to the Arkansas River. The events and camping will be hosted at Bill Cather's Old Goat Ranch, near Mulvane, Kansas, starting the afternoon of May 16th. Events are featured for the whole family. Registration will be at the front gate; the \$5 per person fee will cover camping, Saturday supper, and Sunday breakfast.

□ Bring a boat for a day trip Saturday and/or Sunday on the Arkansas River. (There will be a limited number of canoes available to rent for \$25 per day or \$40 for the weekend.

This will include paddles, PFDs, and transportation.)

□ Bring your whitewater boat for play at the tubes on the Arkansas River in Wichita.

□ Watch a stream shape its course at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks stream trailer.

□ Check your skill with a throw bag (adult and child size bags).

□ Learn two simple, very useful, knots.

□ Saturday supper and Sunday breakfast will be a demonstration of meals possible (including vegetarian) on a river trip (but probably not from a kayak). Bring your own plate, cup, utensils, and beverage.



[Above: An event from the KCA Rendezvous 2002 featured a "live" radio interview with KFRM 550AM. Pictured L-R: - KCA Members Larry Storer, Kail & Emily Katzenmeier, and Outdoor Radio personality (former KS Speaker of the House), Robin Jennison - photo by Jacking Rawlings]

KCA welcomes your help and suggestions. If you wish to volunteer to help with the Rendezvous events, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansariverrat.com or (316) 253-9216 between 7:30 and 9:00 PM weekdays. If you wish to volunteer to help with Rendezvous food, contact Eddy Beard at ebeard@kansariverrat.com or weekdays at (785) 266-6891.

[Directions to the Old Goat Ranch: from the stop light in Mulvane at K 15 and Rock Road go south to the stop sign; turn left and go to Central and Main [brick Methodist Church of right]; turn right under the railroad to 130th; turn left and go to Old Goat Ranch Road; turn right to the corner of 120th and you're there.]

Rio Chama, NM - After School Fun

By Cliff Long



My last day of work for the 2001-02 school year was May 31st and I had a permit to launch on the Rio Chama in New Mexico June 5th. The Rio Chama is reputed to be a beautiful overnight

canyon trip

(Class II) with some Class III to play on during our third day on the river (with empty boats) according to my plan. I say reputed because in 15 years of trying to paddle this little section of river I hadn't managed to get it done yet. My unlucky streak got continued on May 30th when I received a call informing me that the trip was cancelled because the Santa Fe National Forest was closed due to fire hazard.

Some quick map consultation and river gauge checking changed the river to Horsethief and Ruby Canyons on the Colorado River (Loma, Colorado to Westwater Ranger Station, Utah). Notification of this change caused part of the Rio Chama group to drop out but I picked up some area paddlers by email and phone. For

Horsethief and Ruby Canyons (June 5-6) the group consisted of Cliff Long and Eddy Beard on a cataraft and Loren Sheets and Candaise Young in a canoe. The water was low but enough for a relaxing trip watching wildlife and the canyon shapes.

The day after taking off (June 7th) at Westwater we, Cliff Long (IK), Loren Sheets and Candaise Young (OC-2), and Charlie Wood (K-1) and Russell (Charlie's friend), put in at the Cisco access to paddle to Dewey as a day trip. Eddy Beard played shuttle driver for us. It was an interesting paddle but hard work due to the upstream wind.

On the 8th, Charlie Wood (K-1), Loren Sheets, Candaise Young (OC-2), and Cliff Long (IK) launched from Hittle Bottom [Editor's note: Yes this is some of my relation, albeit way up the tree. He was a US mailman in Utah] to do the Colorado River Daily out of Moab. The wind seemed to have doubled by the time we got a mile down river so we took off at the next put in which gave us about half of our proposed distance for the day. We figured we were a full day's tired in only a half day.

It was a fun series of trips with old friends and new friend, Russell (Charlie's friend).

Rogue River, OR - adventure by permit

By Cliff Long

Almeda Park, Galice, Oregon was the launch point, June 19th, for our (Loren Sheets, OC-1; Jim Weaver, IK; Shellie Miller, K-1; Sara Traub, K-1, and Cliff Long, cataraft) Rogue River trip this summer. This river section is unique, to my knowledge, in that it has a class III riffle. Grave Creek Riffle is the first class III whitewater on this trip.

The first rapid on this trip to really get your attention is Rainie Falls (class V) with a drop of approximately 12 feet. Nearly everyone scouts this rapid from the left to catch a good look at the awesome power of the falls. I have never seen anyone run the class V falls. The next less dangerous route is to pick your way through rocks in the middle of the river, make a left turn and drop into the river just below the falls. This class IV route is known as the Center Chute and is often run by rafts, especially commercial rafts. The third choice is a class III route called the Fish Ladder that is on the far right and seems quite narrow. We elected to run the fish ladder and I demonstrated that I could do two 180-degree turns negotiating the channel. Unfortunately, I had not planned to go down in any way other than straight ahead.

Our first camp on the river was at Wildcat Campsite. This was a beautiful camp on a beautiful river. Our second campsite was at the lower end of the bar at Horseshoe Bend. If I had to pick one campsite to stay the rest of my life this would be it. Besides being a good campsite there is a good play area that can be easily reached. While playing here Jim checked Sara's rescue skills and reshaped his paddle handle. [Ed. Note: An unexplained inside joke.] Camp three was at the upper Mule Creek Campsite. From camp we visited Rogue River Ranch to see what life in the area was like in the days of gold and ranching.

Just after leaving Mule Creek one enters Mule Creek Canyon (class IV) most of which I run the raft through sideways because it is too narrow to use the oars. (They make the raft 22' wide versus its 18' length.) Even this ploy lets me jingle the end D-rings against the canyon walls part of the time. Loren decided to check our safety boat system and his swimming ability by dumping the canoe on the entry wave. Shellie managed to get Loren and canoe pushed into a semi-eddy that I managed to stop in and we eventually got him remounted.

Less than three miles below the entering

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Rolling Down the River - 2003

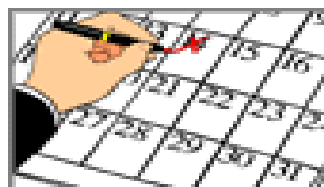
By TJ Hittle & KVHA email

Remember the Rolling Down the River Festival (RDTR)? It was only five years ago, in 1997. The Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance (KVHA) organized and sponsored the month long event. It revolved around the efforts by a number of groups, including the Kansas Canoe Association (KCA). Funded by EPA and the Water Plan fund, it was a series of educational and celebratory programs that "rolled" downstream from one end of the Kaw Valley to the other. Over twenty towns and cities sponsored events that were attended by thousands. The purpose of RDTR was to bring public attention to the Kansas River valley and highlight the rich history, natural resources, culture and arts, agriculture, and recreational attributes of the Kaw Valley.

Well its back on again for 2003. KVHA has received coordinator funding for a second festival and they need your participation to make this one even more successful than the first. Local community planners are

crucial to the effort and we will provide you with information and suggestions on how to organize local events. The Festival will begin (roughly) in mid-September and finish in mid-October with events in towns along the Kansas River Valley.

KVHA is seeking local community volunteer planners to participate in the festival planning. If you, your company, or your organization is interested in participation, please email deb@kvha.org or call Deb Baker at (785) 840-0700. If you cannot participate in this year's event planning, please help us in identifying potential volunteers in your community or organization. We will look forward to seeing you at the Rolling Down the River Festival 2003!





Activities Calendar

"KCA Members - we need your trips & events"



The KANSAS PADDLER Home Page contains the FULL trip and activities schedule. Some events dates & times may have changed or may not be listed in the KCA Newsletter, so check it out at: www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/

April 6th – Kansas River – from Kaw Valley ramp (Manhattan, Hwy 24) to St. George, Kaw River, 12 miles (Class I). Contact Mick O'Shea at (785) 539-2279 or mjoshea@lycos.com for more information.

April 19th & 20th – (optional) Dayfloats in the Flint Hills (Class I-II) - river/creek to be determined. Contact T.J. Hittle at (785) 539-7772 or email: tjhittle@kansas.net

April 26-27 - KCA Novice Whitewater trip (Class III) Meet at the Alma KOA, in Alma, AR Friday evening. We plan to run Frog Bayou on Sat., water permitting and Lee Creek or the Mulberry River on Sunday. Contact Jim Johnson at (316) 264-0430 or email: rickerby@prodigy.net. If water levels are too low we will change the meeting place and river so check with Jim before you leave.

May 3rd-4th - Ocoee River, TN (Class III-IV). Contact T.J. Hittle at (785) 539-7772 or email: tjhittle@kansas.net

May 10th - Dayfloat in the Flint Hills (Class I-II)- river/creek to be determined. Contact T.J. Hittle at (785) 539-7772 or email: tjhittle@kansas.net

May 17-18th – 4th Annual KCA Rendezvous 2003 - Events for the Entire Family - Camping at Bill Cather's Old Goat Ranch, near Mulvane, Kansas, starting the afternoon of May 16th. (Directions to the Old Goat Ranch from the stop light in Mulvane at K-15 and Rock Road go south to the stop sign; turn left and go to Central and Main [brick Methodist Church of right]; turn right under the railroad to 130th; turn left and go to Old Goat Ranch Road; turn right to the corner of 120th and you're there.) Registration will be at the front gate; the \$5 per person fee will cover camping, Saturday supper, and Sunday breakfast. If you wish to volunteer to help (with anything but food) contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or (316) 253-9216 between 730 and 900 PM weekdays. To volunteer to help with food contact Eddy Beard at ebear@kansasriverrat.com or weekdays at (785) 266-6891.

June 3-13, Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons of the Green River, UT – (Class I), 122 miles. This section of the Green River is a mixture of canyons and desert that looks much as it did when explored by Major John Wesley Powell. Along the way are a number of Anasazi ruins, petroglyphs, and abandoned sites. The shuttle service, a jet boat ride (by Tagalong Adventures) is \$120 per person. For details and links to the trip, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or 316-253-9216 (evenings and weekends) for more details (including required deposit) and to sign up.

June 7th & 8th - PADDLE SKILLS WEEKEND in Manhattan, KS. Canoe classes for the novice and for the more advanced paddler. See the SPRING PADDLER ISSUE for more details. Contact Mick O'Shea mjoshea@lycos.com or (785) 539-2279

June – Sat. 6/14 & Sun 6/15 - "Kids Kayaking Chapter Full Moon Quick Strike Series" - Camping on the Kaw - To join us, call or email program leaders Bill McClave (913-685-9221, wimcclav@yahoo.com), Dave Smith (912-681-1260, dsmith8879@aol.com), or Bill Cutler (785-379-9756, spudspa@aol.com). Adult participation & PFD's are required.

June 21st – TOURING KAYAK SELF-RESCUE CLASS- Manhattan, KS - Basic strokes associated with these types of kayaks, as well as the paddle float rescue, and assisted rescue. For details and enrollment, contact Larry Storer at larrystorer@yahoo.com or 785-292-4561.

June 21-22 – Kansas River (Class I) - An overnight trip on the Kaw (probably Perry to Lawrence). This will be a slow paced trip as I plan to row my mini-cat. People should plan to relax, drift and enjoy the river. For details, contact R.J. Stephenson at rjsraft@sunflower.com or (913) 845-2359.

June 21st - Republican River, near Milford Lake 5-6 mile Class I - Saturday afternoon. If there is a lot of interest during any certain month and the weather forecast is GOOD we could go on down to the Kansas River and end the trip at Manhattan. Call Erlene Slingsby (785) 632-2389 or email: erldorothfrmks@yahoo.com

June 23-27, Red and Swallow Canyons of the Green River, UT (Class I-II). Starts at Flaming Gorge Dam and winds up in Browns Hole (Park), Class II. I haven't floated this section yet so come explore it with me. The trip will be between 16 and 46 miles in length depending on water level and boat ramp access. For details and links to the trip, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or at 316-253-9216 (evenings and weekends) for details and to get on the list for this trip.

July 2-11, Wild and Scenic Missouri River, MT (Class I-II), approximately 167 miles. Come travel a portion of the route of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. There are white cliffs, hoodoos, volcanic dikes, and trees on the brink that whisper and moan in the wind. Come make believe that you are an explorer. For details and links to the trip, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or 316-253-9216 for details and to sign up for this trip.

July 19th - Republican River, near Milford Lake 5-6 mile Class I - Saturday afternoon. If there is a lot of interest during any certain month and the weather forecast is GOOD we could go on down to the Kansas River and end the trip at Manhattan. Call Erlene Slingsby (785) 632-2389 or email: erldorothfrmks@yahoo.com

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July 22-August 5, Salmon River (Class III-IV), 80-209 miles. This trip can be broken down into three sections so that paddlers can do as much or as little as they have time and desire for. The first section is the Main Salmon which will be run July 22-26, Corn Creek to Vinegar Creek, 79 miles. The next section is the area above and below Riggins, Idaho and will be run July 27-31 from Vinegar Creek to Hammer Creek, 58 miles. The last section is from Hammer Creek to Heller Bar on the Snake River which will be run August 1-5, 72 miles. A deposit will be required. For details and links to the trip, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or at 316-253-9216 (evenings and weekends) for details and to get on the list for this trip.

August 7-9 or August 7- 12, Grand Ronde River & Snake River, ID Class II-IV). The longer trip depends on interesting enough people to paddle from Minam on the Wallowa River to the Grande Ronde River to Heller Bar on the Snake River (Class II-IV), 92 miles. For details and links to the trip, contact Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or at 316-253-9216 (evenings and weekends) for details and to get on the list for this trip.

August – Sat. 8/16 & Sun 8/17 - "Kids Kayaking Chapter Full Moon Quick Strike Series" - Camping on the Kaw - To join us, call or email program leaders Bill McClave (913-685-9221, wimcclav@yahoo.com), Dave Smith (912-681-1260, dsmith8879@aol.com), or Bill Cutler (785-379-9756, spudspa@aol.com). Adult participation & PFD's are required.

President's Column

By Jackie Rawlings

Since my last column, we have had a Board meeting and the annual meeting. After those meetings, I have had a chance to reflect on how lucky KCA is to have so many members who are willing to volunteer so many hours. Two members that I want to recognize at this time are RJ Stephenson and Bob Harris. RJ was the newsletter editor for ten years and Bob was the treasurer and membership chairman for ten years. Both did a great job. It is hard to imagine how many hours they spent for us. Please take the time to let them know how much you appreciate their work.

On that same subject, Don Varnau has recently volunteered and has been selected as our new treasurer and membership chairman. Don said he read in the newsletter that we were looking for a replacement and he felt it was something he could do for the

organization. We are happy that he stepped forward. Don says that because of the great



[Above: President Jackie Rawlings - pictured during a past KCA Rendezvous - photo by T.J. Hittle]

computer program that Bob developed to track the membership and dues, his job is simpler. Welcome Don and thanks for the help. The new KCA post office box can be found both on the back cover of the KANSAS PADDLER and the newly revised membership form.

Plan to attend the KCA Rendezvous in May. Cliff Long and Eddy Beard are organizing what sounds like a great weekend. Also, watch for the official launch date for the Saint George river access. I am sure it will be a fun event. I attended an organizational meeting for the Rolling Down the River Festival that is being planned for this fall. As in the 1997 event, KCA will continue to be involved.

This is the time of year that we have all been waiting for. It is time to start paddling. Let's hope for rain so there is some water in our local streams. As usual, I hope to see you on the river.

The Outfitters on Rivers in Kansas - a brief history

By T.J. Hittle

Since 1975, the birth of the Kansas Canoe Association (KCA), there has been a steady build up of public interest in paddling the rivers of Kansas. From the early KCA trips, through the infamous KU-KSU canoe races, cosponsored by various college dormitory groups, onto more recent public awareness efforts by KCA and Friends of the Kaw, the demand for canoeing has grown. We are finally at a recreational place where a few outfitters have stepped forward to fill some of the public demand. KCA would like to recognize the past and current canoe outfitters.

Our very own, Cliff Long, started Chimera Odysseys in 1995. Located at his home in Wichita, KS, Cliff was one of the first canoe, kayak, and raft rental outfitters in

Kansas. Cliff, a former KCA President, continues to expand his paddling efforts through his many river trips locally on the

Arkansas River and across the nation. Many of

Kansas River Outfitters (KRO) in 1999. They are located in the Tuttle Creek Reservoir State Park, Manhattan, KS. Open daily, KRO serves clientele at the State Park and the river pond, rents canoes & kayaks, offers charter canoe/kayak trips and shuttles on the Kansas River, and is a dealer for several name brand canoe and kayak companies.



[Above: Kansas River Outfitters, Manhattan, KS owners - Kathy & Charlie Burgess; Right: Kansas River Canoe Co & Lawrence KOA owners, Lawrence, KS - Kim & Ralph Newell]



his boats are used for those trips. Cliff says, "I have more canoes than I can paddle so I rent them out under an imaginary name.... that being Chimera Odysseys." Cliff maintains a website for his trips, rentals, and other good paddling information. His website link can be found in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page under the Rental Canoes/Kayaks and Outfitters page.

Charlie and Kathy Burgess established

KRO maintains an elaborate web site with a great deal of rental and river trip information. Their website link can also be found in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page under the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



KCA Paddle Skills Weekend - June 7th & 8th



Mick O'Shea - ACA Instructor

This paddle skills weekend involves two classes. If you have not had any formal instruction the first one will benefit you. If you have had formal instruction and some experience paddling the second one will benefit you. Class location will be somewhere near Manhattan. Participants will be sent information two weeks prior to the class.

ACA Basic River Canoe: June 7th, 9:30 a.m. –5:00 p.m. Provides an introduction to moving water and easy whitewater (Class I) for tandem or solo canoeists. For persons who have had little or no formal paddle instruction but desire a comprehensive basic introduction to paddling. Basic strokes will be covered, paddle equipment and safety will be discussed, and maneuvers including pivots, turns and sideslips will be covered. Remember to bring your lunch. Information on canoe rental in Kansas including cost can be found at <http://www.tfsksu.net/~tjhittle/>

Strokes Tune-up: June: 8th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Provides practice for the more experienced paddler in executing technically correct strokes. Paddlers may proceed to this class after the ACA Basic River Canoe Class. Note that a lifejacket must be worn for all classes while on the water. Classes will go rain or shine but will be postponed in the case of thunderstorms. All participants must complete and sign a liability waiver, which will be mailed to you when you enroll (enrollment form is below). Participants will receive an ACA card of completion for attending ACA class. Information concerning location (somewhere within a 30 minute drive from Manhattan), camping, liability waiver, detailed itinerary, will be e-mailed or mailed to enrolled participants 14 days before the class for each class they have enrolled in. The instructor, Mick O'Shea, has been teaching canoe classes since 1988 and paddles solo and tandem open canoes on flatwater and whitewater.

PADDLE SKILLS WEEKEND - enrollment

Name: _____ Home Phone (____)-____-_____

Address: _____ e-mail _____

Circle each class you wish to attend:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ACA River Canoe	\$25(includes text)	June 7 th , 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Strokes tune-up	\$10	June 8 th , 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Total enclosed (make check payable to 'Kansas Canoe Association'). _____

Note: Cost does not include equipment. Information on canoe rental in Kansas including cost can be found at <http://www.tfsksu.net/~tjhittle/> . Contact Mick O'Shea if you need help with this. Cancellations: Full refund if you cancel at least two weeks prior to the class. Half refund if you cancel before day of the class. No refund for cancellation on day of class. Return this form with check made out to the 'Kansas Canoe Association' to: Mick O'Shea (KCA), 604 Bertrand St, Manhattan KS 66502. For questions use e-mail mjoshea@lycos.com (best way to reach him), or phone: (785)539-2279

KCA Newsletter Deadlines

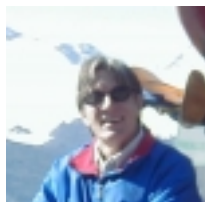
Winter - January 1st
Spring - March 15th
Summer - June 1st
Fall - September 1st



[Above: A past ACA Canoe class with ACA Instructor Mick O'Shea - photo by T.J. Hittle]

Reflections of an Old Kayak Dude

By Jim Johnson - American
Red Cross Instructor Trainer



The events of 2002 have forced me to reflect on my life as a river runner and kayak instructor, and to realize how the sport has grown and changed,

especially in our state of Kansas.

Twenty years ago, when the KCA was just a fledgling group of paddlers, kayaks were just appearing as a craft of choice. Thanks to the early efforts of instructors such as T. J. Hittle and Rex Replogle in Manhattan, John Nelles in the Kansas City area, and Colin Isenman and Brian Hammond in Wichita, a new batch of kayakers appeared in our midst. A new element of recreational paddling emerged- - WHITEWATER KAYAKING!

This was a different time. Boats were long, at first over 13 feet, and many of us had fiberglass boats. Clothing was largely wool and helmets were often from football and hockey manufacturers. There was an esprit de corps among this early group. When one encountered a kayak-laden car on the highways, greetings were a standard response. Many paddlers saw themselves a part of an avant-garde group of athletes, largely carving out of the sport as they went. The goal was to run the river.

Names like the St. Francis, Cossatot, Royal Gorge, and the Middle Fork of the Salmon were the badges of pride. Surfing was just emerging and was largely limited to successfully *extracting* oneself from the hole

you had just accidentally fallen into. It was a simpler time.

Today, twenty years later, the success of this early group is evident. Nationally, the number of kayakers, estimated to be about 10,000 in the mid 1980's, has grown to an estimated three million. In Kansas, paddle shops have appeared in Wichita, Manhattan, and Kansas City, an unthinkable convenience 20 years ago. Equipment and skills have reached a point of development not imagined in those early years. The image of the kayaker has become a common staple of television programs and advertising copy.

But, along with this growth, have come some unwanted side effects. Safety has suffered. As the number of new paddlers increased, the need to "push the envelope" led to an increase of accidents and injuries. The need for formal training and group effort, assumed in the beginning, has become an option in the rush to "hit the river." The cost of gear has increased due to liability concerns and increased claims. The emergence of "park and play" surfing has led to a generation of kayakers who have seldom had to consider scouting a rapid or how to run safely in a group. Specialization of boats has led to inappropriate choices for a given river. The rise in popularity of low priced recreational kayaks has allowed scores of newcomers the opportunity to launch on any body of water *without* the slightest knowledge of such things as a wet exit, sweep, or hypothermia. Lost too is some of the spirit of camaraderie that made the river runner feel special.

The environment has suffered also with the increase in use. Put-ins are often *jammed* and permits for rivers have become harder to obtain. Conflicts with landowners

and area residents are commonplace.

But these are largely the signs of success and a result of the tremendous growth in popularity of the sport. The clubs and associations within the sport are addressing some of these issues. As an example, the ACA has developed new safety programs aimed at re-establishing safety and training as an integral part of kayaking. Clubs like the KCA speak regularly to the issue of safety and access.

So is it not the same as 20 years ago, but what is? Largely, it's better now. But to make it better 20 years from now, we need to learn from our past. Each paddler must realize the need for education, training, and personal responsibility on the river. We must understand that we are guests on the river and act accordingly. We must set standards within our peer groups and not lose sight of the things that made this sport so appealing in the first place.

The best dollars I ever spent were for a lifetime membership in the KCA. From that small investment I have benefited in the people I have met and the landscapes I have seen. Most important it allowed me to learn to kayak.

So know your limits as a kayaker. Take a class. Think about becoming a certified instructor. Speak out when a paddler acts dumb or dangerously on the river. And stay involved in the clubs and associations that make up our community. The sport will be better as a result.



COMPLETE WILDERNESS OUTFITTERS

- Tents
- Sleeping Bags
- Hiking Boots
- Backpacks
- Climbing
- Caving
- Canoeing
- Kayaking



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1628 E. Republic Rd. • 417-889-6633
Springfield, MO

Welcome New Members

Bruce Fuelling- Wichita, KS

Dave Kirkbride- Wichita, KS

Thomas & Nyana Miller- Shawnee, KS

James Sherow & Bonnie Lynn-Sherow- Manhattan, KS

Ryan Smith- Topeka, KS

Ken Tilford- Edwardsville, KS

Richard & Dee Turner- Newkirk, OK

Michael Wilds- Manhattan, KS

Actions n' Captions



[Above Left, Above Right, Below Left, Below Right : Photos from some Kansas River Outfitters Trips - photos by Charlie Burgess]



[Above: TJ Hittle running the Wolf River, Section IV, Big Smokey Falls - photo by Dave Murphy]



[Above Left, Above Right, & Far Right: Photos of "work in progress" from the new St. George River Park & Access - photos by Bob Sinnett]

Hell's Canyon 2002 - trip report

By Cliff Long

Bob Coltharp, my favorite whitewater probe, (raft) was there to lead us down Hell's Canyon of the Snake River starting June 26th. The rest of the group consisted of Bill and Yvonne Cather (cat-raft), Cliff Long (catraft), Les Imboden, Connie Simmons, John Hoving, Jan Kemper, and Jim Weaver (paddle raft). Jim was both apprehensive and anxious to be the paddle raft captain as he had trained to be a raft guide but never been out with anyone but other prospective raft guides or been on this big of water.

Bob, Bill, Yvonne, and I had run this canyon together previously but in many ways this was a different river than before. Yes, they were still varying the flow with daily releases but the high this time was only what the prior low had been so we got to see Rapids and rocks that hadn't been noticed before or were completely different. To avoid running the two biggest rapids the first day and enable us to run them at the lowest water level we stopped at Battle Creek to camp. Battle Creek gives some good hiking to an early ranch (cabin).

Less than a mile from camp we arrived at Wild Sheep Rapid (class IV). The boulder

hopping scout showed that the route we had used in the past was still the route of choice but the tongues were narrower and the diagonal wave at the bottom was shorter. Jim survived that rapid without losing any paddlers and started to perk up. Two miles later we arrived at Granite Rapid (class IV) and the home of the infamous Green Room. Scouting from the cliffs on the right side revealed no Green Room, just a nasty pour over where it usually is. Again, Jim and crew made a good run. Now Jim was ready to enjoy the river since he had survived the two nastiest rapids on the river without any loss of crew. It is kind of disconcerting to watch 30' long jet boats going upstream where you are having trepidation about going down stream. Rush Creek Rapid which had been a one hole wonder previously that managed to grab a paddle raft and dump the crew was a series of rocks and holes this time that didn't manage to sneak up on anyone. Camp two was at Sheep Creek where we got to watch one of the caretakers pulling in fish.

Day three had nothing more than riffles and historical and geological points of interest till our camp at Kirkwood Ranch. The ranch has a nice museum and some good hiking, including Carter Mansion. Carter Mansion is an interesting log cabin con-

structed by moonshiner. The trip to Bar Creek on day four gave us a number of class II-III rapids and took us past Pittsburgh Landing. At Pittsburgh Landing the river can be accessed from White Bird, Idaho in case you want to take out from the Snake and launch on the Lower Salmon. The take out then is the same as if you had gone all the way on the Snake.

On day five we passed the mouth of the Salmon River on our way to Cave Cove to camp. From Cave Cove it was a short paddle on the sixth day to get us to our last camp at Coon Hollow. Coon Hollow provides hiking either to the top or along an old road near the river. At Coon Hollow is an old cabin the has been made into a sort of river museum with oddities from the nearby eddy, signs put up by the previous owners, things left by paddlers, and business cards. From Coon Hollow it is only about 10 miles to the Heller Bar take out so we arrived there about noon of the seventh day. All of our vehicles were there this time so we loaded up, went to Asotin, Washington for lunch and went our separate ways.

Again, many thanks to Bob and Jim for helping get everyone down the river and a big thank you to Bill for getting the permit so we could go.

Kid's Chapter column

By Bill McClave

Parents, Boyfriends, and Cell Phones:

Tips on family paddling with teenage daughters!

Last summer, good friends Ed & Mary Lou Mills, who have three daughters in (respectively) 10th, 7th and 1st grade, caught the river trip bug in a big way when Ed and their 7th grader joined us for the August full moon quick strike trip down the Kaw. The next week, the Mills bought 5 kayaks for the entire family and promptly scheduled two fall trips. Completely over-riding their high school daughter's protests, they pulled off both trips in great style and filed this advice on family paddling trips with teenage daughters (editor's note: we don't have any first hand experience with family paddling trips with teenage sons – perhaps others can contribute their field work in this important area).



[Above: The Mills family with their three daughters and friends

1. Don't Negotiate – Mary Lou popped the first family trip on their high school daughter McKenzie with the loving words "Don't even think about debating this trip. We are a family and WE ARE ALL going on this family trip." This line is particularly effective when in fact past uses of this line have not been accompanied by negotiation. If you catch yourself starting to waiver on this point, remember the fact that the International Chapter for family kayaking forbids negotiating such trips with teenage daughters. Rules are rules!

2. Yield The Point That You Are Ruining Their Lives – Of course you are. That's your job. You're

the parent.

3. Suggest They Share Their Misery – transform the discussion completely by lining

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Kayak Touring With Confidence



Larry Storer - Instructor

Self-Rescue & Assisted Rescue

Class, Saturday, June 21, 2003

For touring and recreational kayaks. Larry Storer at larrystorer@yahoo.com or 785-292-4561.

TOURING KAYAK SELF-RESCUE CLASS—JUNE 21st - 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If you are new to the sport of touring kayaks or have a recreational kayak and would like to learn some basic self rescue and assisted rescue skills to boost your confidence on the water, this is the class for you.

You will learn the basic strokes associated with these types of kayaks, as well as the paddle float rescue, and assisted rescue. The class will be located near Manhattan, KS. You will receive exact location closer to date of class.

I am an avid touring kayak paddler and a firm believer in safety on the water. The more confident you are in

your skills the more fun you will have on the water.

KAYAK SELF-RESCUE & ASSISTED RESCUE CLASS— enrollment

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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\$25 Class fee (make check payable to “Kansas Canoe Association”) Send this information with the class fee to :Larry Storer, 3001 17th Rd, Frankfort, KS 66427

A Cold Day on the Blue River

(Kid's Chapter - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

By Mick O'Shea

Two hardy paddlers, myself (OC1) and James Christians (recreational kayak) launched from the Kaw Valley ramp for a 20°F paddle on the Blue River down to the confluence with the Kaw River and a short distance on the Kaw before following our route back to the boat ramp. This was originally scheduled to be a Rocky Ford to Manhattan paddle. We had decided prior to launch that a sub freezing paddle of 8 miles by two boaters was not the smartest thing safety wise and so our Rocky Ford to Manhattan paddle was nixed in favor of this shorter float.

After breaking ice to get on the river we paddled down to the confluence. The Blue had no current in it since the Tuttle Creek dam was almost completely closed. At the confluence we found the Kaw to be running in a narrow channel with large amounts of ice and slushy snow washing down. It was fun doing ferries across the moving water/ice using my canoe bow as an ice breaker.

We explored several sandbars. It was amazingly quiet at the confluence. For those who know Manhattan, the confluence is just out of sight (and sound) of the railroad and traffic bridges over the Blue and the traffic bridge over the Kaw so you have a definite feeling of being isolated and in the wilderness.

up an extra kayak and having your daughter bring a close friend with them. Chances are good you'll catch them laughing and having a great time, which is a perfect opportunity to remind your teenage daughter of your infinite wisdom insisting on this family outing in the first place. Most teenage kids really appreciate these sorts of reminders!

4. Embrace the Boyfriend — if you're like a lot of parents, you actually like your teenage daughter's boyfriend but in truth prefer your family paddling trip to stay family focused. Your best strategy in such a situation? Suggest your daughter invite her boyfriend instead of a girlfriend. Point out how much fun it will be camping and getting going each morning without cumbersome showers and cold Pepsi's. The Mills are batting 1000 on Mckenzie opting for leaving the boyfriend back home during their trips!

5. Bring the Cell Phones – since (A) with a teenage daughter, you don't have any choice in this matter and (B) you've already used your dictator card getting the family trip launched, let her bring her cell phone. You have no downside (see 'A' above). Your upsides: your river valley may be deep enough to cut out the signal, and the cell phone idea can lock in the “leave the boyfriend home” strategy.

6. Assign Slave Labor – it your God-given right as a parent not to miss golden opportunities, so make sure you assign slave labor chores to your teenage daughter and her friend on your family paddling trip. Meal preparation and/or clean up are big winners in this category. So is firewood collecting, but only if you're not that interested in a major league camp fire, since only one hand will be available to carry firewood what with the other hand holding the ever-present cell phone. Stick to your guns on the assignment of slave labor duties — teenagers just love to help out!

7. Keep a Journal and Insist Everyone File an Entry – as a concluding thought, keep a journal on your family paddle trip and insist that each family member and friend log an entry. I consider as priceless the entries McKenzie and her friend made in my journal from the fall trip I paddled with the Mills. Stopped on a gravel bar for lunch, McKenzie's friend wrote: “Rocks are awesome, there are so many! I need a CELL PHONE that works!” McKenzie added: “Rocks are awesome! Cell phone batteries should never die! I'd rather be at a mall!” I'm not sure if I believe her or not, but mom Mary Lou is insisting that “rocks” is teenage code-speak for “parents.” You go girl!!!

Rental Canoes/Kayaks and Outfitters page. Visit the KRO website for an extensive list of trips and educational events.

Ralph and Kim Newell own the Kansas River Canoe Company (KRCC), located at 1473 Hwy 40, Lawrence, KS. Not to be confused with KRO in Manhattan, KS, KRCC is the newest outfitter on the Kansas River. It is an outgrowth of their main business, the Lawrence KOA. Lawrence KOA maintains a small website with KRCC river information. Beginning their canoe outfitting company in 2001, KRCC provides bus shuttles and canoe rentals for their customers that paddle from Perry, KS to Lawrence, KS. Their website link can also be found in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page under the Rental Canoes/Kayaks and Outfitters page.

Together with the new Kansas River access in St. George, KS and the future access proposed in Lecompton, KS for the summer of 2003, each outfitter would get a boost from river access. The St. George access, built by the Westar Energy Green Team and other volunteer organizations including the Friends of the Kaw and Kansas Canoe Association, provides a vital link between Manhattan and Wamego. It allows two easy day float trips, with one from Manhattan to St. George, a twelve-mile trip and another from St. George to Wamego, KS, a nine-mile float trip.

In the Lawrence, area, the proposed Lecompton, KS river access, to be built by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will link Topeka to Lawrence, KS. This will allow two easy day trips, with one from Topeka to Lecompton, a fourteen-mile float trip, and one from Lecompton to Lawrence, KS, an eleven-mile float trip.

Others that have provided rental canoes and outfitting in Kansas in years past have included: former KCA member, George Latham – Gran Sport – Lawrence, KS and Junior Funk with Funk's Radiator Shop – Eureka, KS outfitting on Fall River. Time and space would not allow more details on these pioneer Kansas outfitters.

It is also important to note that Linn Lyon and Scott Medill, who own the KC Paddler, located in the City Market area in Kansas City, MO continue to sell, demo, and rent their boats on various rivers and lakes each year. See their website link under the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page Commercial Links page.

More information on these outfitters and other rental resources may be found within the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page. KCA continues to provide a FREE link for all canoe rental companies from our Rental Canoes/Kayaks and Outfitters page within the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page at: http://www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/ks_rent.htm. KCA congratulates our homegrown Kansas canoe & kayak rentals & outfitters. We apologize in advance for missing those outfitters that escaped our radar. KCA invites all outfitters and paddling equipment and outdoor businesses to join us as Associate members and help us

continue our 25+ year mission of working together to promote river running, education, conservation, and paddling related activities. We thank you for all your support of the recreation and tourism industry and wish you and your clients the best on your future float adventures!

(FOR MORE OUTFITTERS PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 7)



(ROGUE RIVER - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Mule Creek canyon is the trip's last major rapid, Blossom Bar (class IV). The scout for Blossom Bar is at least class V across a major boulder field on the right from which you get to look down on the rapid from at least 20' above. The run starts far left drops a few feet at which point you need to catch an eddy (still moving downstream) above the "Picket Fence" and ferry right. Then you enter the "Pourover" and dodge rocks through the second half of the rapid. You then have to be ready for class III Devils Stairs before you get to relax. I clipped a rock trying to get into the top eddy and then had to work the rest of the way down to keep from getting caught on a rock. Jim got dumped and was aided by Sara to get back in his boat to finish the rapid. Loren got dumped and was hanging onto the upstream side of the canoe while it was caught on a pair of rocks. Unable to maintain his grip and get air he found a hole to flush through and left the boat. Shellie helped him get down then. I thought the boat was a lost cause even with full flotation but eventually it worked free and was delivered to us by a jet boat. (Jet boats ply the Rogue above Rainie Falls and below Blossom Bar.) Camp four at Tate Creek Campsite (upper) was shared with a small group we had met at Mule Creek Campsite. Up Tate Creek is a water slide that I'm told is great.

The last day of the trip is rather an anticlimax with mild rapids taking you down to the take out at Foster Bar. Loren won the prize for swimming the most difficult rapid, most distance swum, and scaring us the most. He now says that he is thinking of switching to rafting. Jim was great evening entertainment with the Jim Show. Shellie and Sara were great rescue kayakers.

If you are in the vicinity of the Rogue, have the equipment to run it, and the time be at the Rand Visitor Center about 7AM and try to get a permit. There are permits for 120 people per day and if you are there and that number hasn't been reached you might be able to get on as the permits are then doled out first-come-first-served.

KCA Accessories

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Contact Pat Cullen
6419 SE Stubbs Road
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785-379-9916 / email: pcullen@sbcglobal.net

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My areas of interest include (check all that apply):

- Family/Flatwater Canoeing (Class I-II)
- Kayak Touring (Class I-II)
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CHECK ONE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

(This section is required. Check only one.)

- _____ \$15.00 Single / Family Membership
- _____ \$45.00 Associate/Business Membership (w/6 col. inch KCA Newsletter ad and KCA website ad)

_____ \$200.00 Life Membership (does not include chapter dues)

OPTIONAL CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

_____ \$5.00 Kayak Chapter

\$ _____ **TOTAL OF ALL FEES**

Please fill out this form completely, even if you are renewing.

Send application and your check for TOTAL OF ALL FEES to:

Kansas Canoe Association; PO Box 44-2490; Lawrence, KS 66044

KCA depends upon volunteer efforts. I am willing to help with these activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction/Safety |
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General Waiver & Liability Release

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF DANGER INHERENT IN BOATING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF KANSAS CANOE ASSOCIATION (KCA), ITS TRIP LEADERS, CLUB MEMBERS, CLUB OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THAT PARTICIPATION IN THESE EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FLOAT TRIP AND CAMP OUTINGS, ENTAILS UNAVOIDABLE RISK AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF LIFE AND OR PROPERTY. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE KCA, TRIP LEADERS, OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF KCA, I DO HEREBY FOR MYSELF AND FOR ALL WHO MAY HEREAFTER CLAIM THROUGH OR FOR ME, WAIVE AND RELEASE ALL FUTURE CLASSES, RIGHTS AND CAUSES OF ACTION ACCORDED IN MY FAVOR AS A RESULT OF PERSONAL INJURIES, LOSS OF LIFE OR LOSS OF PROPERTY WHICH I MAY SUFFER WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CLUB EVENTS, AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE KCA AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND I FURTHER HEREBY COVENANT AND AGREE, THAT NO SUIT OR ACTION AT LAW SHALL BE INSTITUTED FOR THE ABOVE REASONS BY ME OR OTHERS IN MY BEHALF OR IN MY RIGHT. HAVING READ AND UNDERSTANDING THE ABOVE, I FREELY SIGN THIS WAIVER AGREEMENT.

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Whom to Notify in Emergency _____

Emergency Address & Phone _____

Signature(s) **X** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (required if under 21) _____

Address & Phone of Parent/Guardian _____

Editor's Column

Wow! What a great paddling year in 2002 and I hope you are all off to a fun 2003! Last fall was a milestone for me.

By the time I had paddled through the Grand Canyon's Lava Falls rapids last September, I had crossed over the 8,000-river mile mark in my paddling career. From the continuous stream of river trip articles, you can also see there are lots of others that had great paddling season last year too.

By the way, if you don't already keep a river mileage log, I suggest you try it. It really comes in handy when you try to relate your trip pictures when you have a log with which to compare. Plus it helps in planning your next river trip to know when, what sections, and what level you paddling a river. To help you, I've developed a ready-to-go KCA Mileage Log sheet (.pdf - 5 KB) to download and print FREE on the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page at: <http://www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/KCAmileage.html> The link can also be found on the KCA Membership and History Page.

Send in your KCA Mileage at least once/ year to the Interior Affairs Chr or Marketing Chr for a cool KCA mileage patch for your paddling top or PFD. You can proudly "wear your KCA experience."

Again, thank you so much for all of the

[KCA & Kayak Chapter logos by Rex Replogle]



Kansas Canoe Association
PO Box 44-2490
Lawrence, KS 66044

BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES - PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFO:

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Page 16

great events and trip articles sent in thus far. As you can see, we are again chocker block full of interesting articles. Plus the trip schedule looks pretty good. I have a sense that there are more paddlers that are willing to share their trip experiences again. I've continued the column on the back to preview any backlog ARTICLES that will be included in FUTURE issues of the KANSAS PADDLER. Last, no your eyes are not failing, I've reduced the article type size by a .5 pt in order to catch back up on articles.

See you on a river or at the KCA Rendezvous south of Wichita, KS - in 2003!
TJ Hittle



[Above: The Editor out enjoying the local play spots at Rocky Ford (KDWP land), Manhattan, KS - photo by Bob Sinnett]

*The river and sky are portals
that bear us toward the eternal.*

Lorca

FUTURE ARTICLES

- North Carolina / Tennessee WW - trip report
- Eagle Float - NO-GO & GO - trip report
- Kayak Chapter - "trailer for sale (not rent)"
- More Photos - Kids Chapter in Action!
- Kids Chapter - Summer Trip Schedule
- Bombproofing Your Roll - By Eric Jackson
- September 13th - Missouri & Kansas Rivers Confluence Cleanup Float

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