

"The Official Newsletter of the Kansas Canoe Association" - Four Issues/Yr



KCA Member Recognized for Good Deed

By Russell Warnky

Testimonial and Thank You to Bill Cather

[Editor's Note: This was received as an email to the Kansas Paddler Home Page. Permission from the author was received to edit and publish his email.] Please let me tell you about Bill Cather.

It all began as my wife and I headed out for a kayak float trip from Wichita KS around 3 PM on Saturday, July 4th. We had hoped to arrive at the Old Goat Ranch by 4:30 PM for the scheduled evening float trip down the Arkansas River.

When we reached the Goat Ranch we did not know for

sure that we had the correct place. I put in a call to Chris Collins and left a voice message that I saw only three tents and no people.

In a couple of minutes Chris called back to confirm that we were in fact at the correct place and told us to just knock on the door and that there should be someone inside. He told us that if no one answered to just go inside and enjoy the air-conditioning while we waited for the group.

We walked in and shouted for anyone home. In just a few minutes, Bill Cather came from the bedroom and said that he was taking a nap. He invited us to make ourselves comfortable.

He then entertained us for over 2 hours and



[Above Bill Cather - photo by Jackie Rawlings]

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What I Learned on My Summer vacation - Trip Report

By Judy & Mike Jones

experience the outdoors.

[Editor's Note: Judy & Mike are good Texas friends of KCA members, Keith & Sandy Ratzloff]

1. All my years of boating, from skiffs to sportfishermen to sailing the Caribbean, didn't prepare me for the intimacy one feels, both with the control of the boat and the closeness to the water, in a kayak. It is a wonderful way to



[Above Judy Jones & her pet turtle, George W.]

2. Rocks in the river are not scary - OK, a little scary, but dead trees, rootwads, and strainers, are really scary! The current tends to pull your boat around a rock, but it drags you right into those deadly snarls of roots and logs.

3. My husband's heart is in pretty good shape, having

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KCA Octoberfest Event October 25th & 26th

By Cliff Long & Eddy Beard

Rain, sleet or shine, KCA members will be camping, paddling and eating at Bill Cather's Old Goat Ranch, near Mulvane, Kansas, starting the evening of October 24. Float trips will be planned for Saturday and Sunday.

Tent or RV camping allowed at Bill Cather's Old Goat Ranch, near Mulvane, Kansas. (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 on 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.)

Suppers (Friday and Saturday) will be



potluck. Other meals are on your own. Bring photos & tell stories of your summer trips. Bring a chair or a pad, words to your favorite campfire songs, and a musical instrument to share around the campfire. Bob Gress, Director of the Great Plains Nature Center, will make a presentation, "Great Wildlife on the Great Plains", at the Octoberfest.

For more details, contact: Cliff Long at clifflong@kansasriverrat.com or (316) 253-9216 between 7:30 and 9:00 PM weekdays.

Looking for and Finding the River Channel

By Chris Collins



In the Midwest we often float and paddle canoes and kayaks on shallow sandy bottom rivers such as the Arkansas and the Kansas. The ability to find and stay in the channel can be the difference between an enjoyable float and an exhausting experience. Under normal water level conditions, these rivers contain shallow water, lots of sandbars and a narrow channel where the water is deeper.

Study all the tips and try to confirm them each time you float. No individual tip will work well by itself. Always look for two or more reasons why the channel should be where you think it is. If you judge incorrectly or a tip appears to fail, try to figure out why. I recently found the deeper water on the inside of a river bend and when I looked for the reason, I discovered the river bottom had become hard and rocky.

This article covers rivers with bottoms that consist of loose sand. Loose sand is easily moved and shaped by the current. The included tips will not work with rivers and streams that have hard or rocky-bottoms such as found in the Ozarks or those rivers with little or no current to shift the sand and

cut a channel.

Basic River Dynamics:

Water, like all moving objects, has the propensity to move in a straight line until deflected or forced to turn. When moving water comes to a bend in the river, the bank on the outside of the bend becomes the deflector that makes the water turn. The water runs faster on the outside of the bend and usually cuts a deeper groove in the sandy bottom known as the channel. The riverbank on the channel side frequently appears steep because the channel has been



[Above KCA member - Jutta Zastrow & grandson - "looking for the channel"]

cutting away at the soft soil near the bottom and the top keeps caving into the river. This is where landowners frequently dump various items to stop the erosion. The opposite occurs on the inside of the bend where the

water runs slower and sand bars develop. If the river bend switches directions then the current will cross the river at the end of one bend and be deflected by the next bend. If the river straightens out or has no obvious bends, the channel can meander around or dissipate until the next clearly defined bend in the river.

Where the water flows rapidly, the surface usually reflects the depth conditions with ripples or waves. This is caused because as water flows over an uneven surface (the river bottom, objects, etc.) turbulence is generated in the form of waves. These waves are reflected on the surface and appear as ripples. If the water is deep enough, the waves dampen and/or disappear before they reach the surface. The closer the bottom or the object is to the surface the more apparent these waves are. Waves generated by wind are added to the waves generated by the bottom. The resulting ripples are bigger over shallow water and smaller over deeper water. The shiny water tip described below works even if it is windy.

Channel Finding Tips:

Tip #1: Where there is a well-defined river bend, the channel will be found on the outside of the turn. Higher and steeper banks are usually found on the outside of turns. Lower banks and sandbars are usually found on the inside of turns. The outside of the turns is also likely to contain log jams and strainers, so exercise great caution to avoid those extreme hazards while trying to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



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/

October 11-12, 2003, North Fork of the White River, MO (Class I-II). For details, contact Cliff Long at (316) 253-9216 or clifflong@kansassriverrat.com.

October 25 - 26 - KCA OCTOBERFEST FLOAT - Camping at Bill Cather's Old Goat Ranch, near Mulvane, Kansas. (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 on 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.) For more details, contact Eddy Beard at ebeard@kansassriverrat.com or weekdays at (785) 266-6891. See the KANSAS PADDLER Trips Page for more breaking details.

November 8 - KCA Board Meeting - 12:30 PM; Any KCA member is welcome. Come for lunch (Please RSVP to 785-537-0164 or rawlings@kansas.net) - Jackie Rawlings/TJ Hittle residence, 700 Gillespie Drive; Manhattan, KS.

2004

January 17-25 - Costa Rica Paddling Trip - This is being organized through Gecko Expeditions, a USA guiding service for paddlers. For details, cost, and itinerary contact T.J. Hittle at tjhittle@kansas.net or (785) 539-7772

February 7 - KCA Annual Meeting & Kayak Chapter Party - 3:00 PM -KCA Board Meeting; 5:00 PM - Annual Meeting & Party - (Please RSVP to 785-537-0164 or rawlings@kansas.net) - Jackie Rawlings/T.J. Hittle residence, 700 Gillespie Drive; Manhattan, KS. Look for more details in the WINTER Issue - KANSAS PADDLER..

Green River, WY - Red & Swallow Canyons - Trip Report

By Cliff Long

Taylor Flats Bridge and Campground was the gathering spot for our group planning to run the Green River from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to Lodore Ranger Station. While congregating at camp we were invited by a member of the BLM staff at the Jarvie Ranch to come view a moose that hangs out in the area.

By late June 22nd Les and Patti Imboden, John and Jean Weiss, Gwen and George Moudry, Pam and Sean Broderick, Rob Long, Caitlin Jolly, Mick Farrell, Bob

Krenz, and I had managed to find each other for our adventure. There were a couple of problems. The reservoir was only releasing 827 cfs, which we found to be adequate, barely. The other problem was that the weather was very non typical for desert at that time of year. The daily highs were in the low fifties, the wind was blowing, and it rained nearly constantly.

The morning of the 23rd we drove to the launch ramp below Flaming Gorge Reservoir. This is such a busy ramp they had a guy

down there to gripe at you if you took more than thirty seconds to launch and get your vehicle headed back to the parking area. The water here is so clear they call this area the aquarium. The early part of the trip was nice class II drops. Past where most of the fishermen take out is Red Creek Rapid (class III). Red Creek was flowing two inches deep and two feet wide due to the last several days of rain which turned the Green River red. (I

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



[Left: Chris Collins (KCA Marketing Chr. & Jackie Rawlings (KCA President) show off one the two KCA Banners that the Board recently approved to help support the increased member activity in city & regional river festivals, special events, KCA activities, and awareness events Contact Chris or Jackie to reserve your date for the new KCA Banner]

President's

Column

By Jackie Rawlings

I hope you all had a good summer. The extreme heat and lack of water kept many of us from doing very much paddling in Kansas. I was fortunate enough to be able to go to Idaho and be part of a wonderful trip down the Salmon River. A special thanks to Craig Geary, Cliff Long, Doug Sell, and Lynn Lyon. Without their participation, I couldn't have gone. Be sure and read Cliff & Doug's article about the trip.

This fall several communities are having Rolling Down the River Festivals. On September 13th we helped St. George celebrate their first celebration since building their new river park. Sadly there was not enough water in the Kaw for us to do the float we had planned. However, we had three excellent presentations. Dan Mulhern, from the US Fish & Wildlife, talked about endangered species on the Kaw. Jim Sherow, Professor of Environmental History at K-State, talked about the history of the Kaw River and Dave Murphy, longtime RiverKeeper for Friends of the Kaw, talked about the future of the Kaw. We followed this up with an enjoyable rescheduled float on the Big Blue River, below Tuttle Creek Reservoir



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

and a great campout. What could have been a disappointing day turned out to be very worthwhile and enjoyable.

On September 21st, Lawrence had their Rolling Down the River Celebration and on October 4th, it will be in Manhattan. KCA members have been at each of these staffing our education and awareness booths. We now have two new color KCA Banners that have improved our visibility. KCA members from Clay Center are participating in their city's festival too. We hope you enjoyed seeing KCA.

I'm sure many of you have noticed the "Dredging Issues" page on the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page this fall. Hopefully by

the time this issue is out, we will have learned that the Corps of Engineers has made the right decision to allow a public hearing. It never ceases to amaze me that those who are in a position to do the right thing to protect our natural resources need to realize that "The People" are watching them in order for them to do the right thing. Since water is probably the most valuable resource on the planet, our rivers should not be abused just so one industry or another can make larger profits. Make your views known about clean water.

I want to welcome two new KCA Board members, Keith Ratzloff, Interior Affairs and Chris Collins, Marketing Chairman. Kail Katzenmeier has moved to fill in an At-Large Board position. Thanks in advance for your willingness to serve.

Hope to see many of you at the KCA Octoberfest at the Old Goat Ranch outside Mulvane, Kansas October 25 and 26. It should be fun. Don't forget the New Member Contest running to the end of June 2004! Get new members and be eligible for prizes. See the summer issue of the KANSAS PADDLER Newsletter or the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page for details.

Salmon River, ID - Trip Reports #1 & #2

By Doug Sell (#1) & Cliff Long (#2)

[ARTICLE #1] There were fourteen of us in seven rafts & two funny shaped boats. Trip members included Cliff Long, Craig and Rebecca Geary, their sons Trenton and Colton, Bob Krenz, Bill Cather and his

nephew Cary, Lynda Lyne, Jackie Rawlings, Lynn Lyon, and Doug Sell. T.J Hittle and Dave Murphy were along as rescue boaters in some kind of funny looking boats with the end all squashed and kind of humped up in

the middle.....whitewater kayaks, I believe they're called. Although we needed no rescue, Bill Cather got the honors for coming the closet while splatting his catarrh into a large rock in the middle of the river.

On Monday, rigging day, it was 113 degrees in the shade. "Stay off the boat ramp, or you'll have a case of the "catarrh". "Catarrh" is endemic in Idaho. The only known cure is to bathe in the hot springs. This was the advice of Dr. Lynn Lyon, our group's resident expert on "catarrh". [Editor's note: "Catarrh" is the name for the group's running joke and fictitious disease known only to Dr. Lynn Lyon.]

The river level was .4' and crested in late May at 10.5'. Now THAT must have been some big water! However, there was plenty of water for our purposes. The rapids were mostly in the Class II-III, which meant that it was all fun, spunky, little joy rides every 1/4 mile or so. The water was also a perfect temperature for swimming. One of the latest raft accoutrements is the beach umbrella. It's quite a sight to see a gaily-colored umbrella bobbing madly through a set of large standing waves. Everybody on the trip got along just great. The food was fine. Wildlife sightings included a bear cub, numerous bighorn sheep, unconfirmed osprey, grouse,

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(Salmon River - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

and large flocks of chukar, a ground dwelling, partridge like bird, too stupid to fly away from humans, and three nonpoisonous snakes. There were also several historic cabins, wooden pack bridges, jet boats, and a malt shop at MacKay Bar.

Lynn Lyon showed exceptional style by running Salmon Falls backwards. Dave took the big water run on river left. Colton and Trenton finally finished their books, but only after running into his Dad's raft in one of several new and yet unnamed rapids. Dave Murphy hiked everybody's legs down to the nubs, but only after hiking in thunderous lightning and a blinding rain storm. Next time I need to remember three important things about hiking:

- 1) Take plenty of water
- 2) Use hiking boots
- 3) Take a rain coat when it looks like rain is coming.

We also stopped at a hot springs below Salmon Falls with a fine, hot, deep, pool where we soaked in the cool part of the morning. There are other sections of the river below our take out at Carey Creek that look just as fun as the section we did. Cliff, Bill, Carey, Bob, and the Geary family went on to float down to Hammer Bar, well below Riggins, ID. It rained the last day and cooled things off for a while. Doug drank the most beer and still got off the river with part of a six-pack. Did I mention the water was just delightful?

[ARTICLE #2] Craig Geary was drawn for a Main Salmon River permit and I volunteered to coordinate the trip.

Since I had plenty of time I wasn't satisfied with just doing the permitted section. We added floating above the permit launch at Corn Creek and extended the trip below Vinegar Creek, the end of the permit, to Heller Bar on the Snake River.

Almost from the beginning the actual launch site was in doubt. The previous year Kitchen Creek had carried tons of rock into



[Above L-R: Doug Sell, Dave Murphy, Lynn Lyon, Bill Cather, T.J. Hittle, Cary Heiserman, Linda Lyne - photo by Jackie Rawlings]

the Salmon River creating a new rapid. This year Kitchen Creek and the Salmon River had very high early runoff washing out some of the road to Corn Creek, until about the end of June emails between Craig, the North Fork Ranger, and I kept us guessing about the road. Then we were told that the road was repaired so we could get to Corn Creek.

T.J. Hittle, Jackie Rawlings, and Dave Murphy met me early at Spring Creek Campground. After a little scouting and a trip to a hot spring that T.J. knew of we decided to run from camp to Cove Creek, about 10 miles of mostly class III water. T. J. and Dave kayaked while Jackie and I watched their antics from my cataraft. Actually, we made two successive day trips here. The day before our scheduled launch Bill Cather, Cary Heiserman (passenger), and Bob Krenz (catarafts) joined us for a trip from Cache Bar to Corn Creek.

By departure time July 22nd Doug Sell (cataraft), Lynn Lyon (self-bailing raft), Linda Lyne (passenger), Craig, Rebecca, Colton, and Trenton Geary (2 self-bailing rafts) had joined us. On that first day we missed finding the Legend Creek pictographs but the rest of the rapids, including Killum (II-III-), Gunbarrel (II-III-), Rainier (III-III+), and Lantz (III), and creeks were where they were supposed to be. Our first attempt to camp got us run off by a larger group that claimed, probably rightly, they had reserved that campsite.

On day two we ran Salmon Falls (III-

III+) and stopped at Barth Hot Springs. The hot springs were an interesting climb but enjoyable. We visited the Jim Moore homestead and SAW A BLACK BEAR!. We made a stop at the resort at MacKay Bar for a round of milk shakes. The fourth day was mild rapids and a camp above Upper Sheep Creek. We had a good rain while in camp and enjoyed the shelter provided by Craig and Lynn's canopies. Dried Meat Rapid (III- III+) was the only major rapid for those of us not taking out on the fifth day. T.J., Dave,

Jackie, Doug, Linda, and Lynn went on downstream to take out at Carey Creek Boat Ramp. The rest of us camped at Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp, which really doesn't have a place to camp except in the parking area but we were supposed to meet four people there. While there we got to watch the Shepp Ranch using a large jet boat as a truck to haul bailed hay to the ranch. While at Vinegar Creek we learned that the rainy weather we had received had started several more wildfires, caused a blowout up the Middle Fork of the Salmon, and a mud/rock slide on the road to Corn Creek that blocked it. Were our vehicles moved out from the put in before the slide?

At Vinegar Creek Christa and Steven Eschelman joined us. We headed downstream through Vinegar Creek Rapid (III+ - IV-) and camped at Spring Creek Bar that night and enjoyed running water to refill water jugs and clean up. Day seven took us by the Little Salmon River and into Riggins. We stopped at the Riggins Boat Ramp and got ice and groceries. While in town I called River Shuttles (800-831-8942) and was assured that our vehicles were out before the slide had closed the road. Leaving Riggins the rapids pick up again and we ran Time Zone (IV), Chair Creek (III), and Traps Creek (IV) before making camp. During this day we passed and were passed by the muddy water from the blowout on the Middle Fork. The next day we were flagged over to a boat ramp and were greeted by the river ranger who told us that due to fire danger we could not have campfires. The water got so muddy that instead of white caps we had brown caps. The water looked like cocoa.

At the Snake River the Salmon's muddy water made it a bi-colored river for several miles until it finally thoroughly mixed. Our camp kitchen at Cave Cove was as close to the water as we could make it so we didn't have to carry everything to the top of the steep beach. When we got to the take out the sight of my van and trailer waiting for us pleasantly greeted us. We had completed over 220 miles from put in to take out. Since there was smoke visible most of the trip I think the theme song for the trip is Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.



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New Paddler's Guide to Missouri Rivers

By TJ Hittle



Heads up to all you paddlers that canoe & kayak in Missouri. There is a new river guide called the Paddler's Guide to Missouri that has replaced the 'Ozark Scenic Waterways' by Oz Hawksley. The 2003 edition has been updated, format changed and added to by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). It has included descriptions of some of the Northern Missouri Float streams, AND the Missouri River (which is a great addition in my opinion!).

The Paddlers' Guide to Missouri promotes 43 rivers in the state. Although the streams most used by canoeists, kayakers and float anglers are in the southern part of

the state, many paddlers are discovering other waters to dip a paddle, including the Missouri River. For this reason, the Conservation Department is replacing its former river guide, Missouri Ozark Waterways, with A Paddlers' Guide to Missouri, which includes some central and northern streams that paddlers and anglers can enjoy. Floaters familiar with the previous book by Oz Hawksley will find updated maps and details of those same Ozark streams, along with maps of six more rivers to explore. By providing floating information for additional streams in different parts of the state, the Conservation Department hopes to encourage more people to get out and discover nature along Missouri's streams.

The cost is \$6.00 plus \$4.95 handling and shipping (plus sales tax if you live in MO). You can write or call the MDC Nature Shop at:

Nature Shop Online
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

877-521-8632 (toll free) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST (central standard time), Monday through Friday except holidays. Fax them at 573-522-2020. You can also go on-line at the MDC Nature Shop to order at: <http://www.mdcnatureshop.com/>

Welcome New Members

Zack Arnold	Kansas City, MO
Art Boileau	Harper, KS
Michael W Buckley	Overland Park, KS
Anita Carroll	Manhattan, KS
Craig Cheney	Sandy, UT
Alan Cobb	Topeka, KS
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Terry Foster	Russell, KS
Steve Gardner	Wichita, KS
Doug George	Topeka, KS
KS Dept of Wildlife & Parks	Topeka, KS
E.B. Langston	Wichita, KS
Keith & Sharon McCampbell	Wichita, KS
Norm & Rhonda Mitts	Wichita, KS
Pat O'Connor	Wichita, KS
Ben & Kacy Postlethwait	Wichita, KS
Barbara G Read	Marysville, KS
Baseer Sayeed	Wichita, KS
Andrew Ward	Wichita, KS

July 4th Float - Trip Report

By Chris Collins

Fourteen enjoyed Friday's activities and we welcomed two new KCA memberships; Virginia Davis a friend of Linda Lyne, and Ben & Kacy Postlethwait.

Charles Benjamin was initiated into kayaking by soloing from the back seat in Bill's tandem Ole Yeller. Needless to say the bow was light and steering was difficult. Other participants included Linda Lyne, Bill & Yvonne Cather, David Browne, Chris Collins, Lyle Kaufmann, Russell & Carolyn Warnkey, Ray Cowin and his 6-year-old grandson Tyler. Ray and Tyler camped Thursday night and helped with the shuttle on Friday morning. Thanks a bunch Ray from all of us.

When I originally planned the trip I asked Bill Cather if we could use his sandbar. I was thinking it would be a great place to plan an overnigher on the river. He immediately opened his property and home to us. To top that off, he had air conditioning either installed or repaired the day before the holiday began. Bill many thanks to you and

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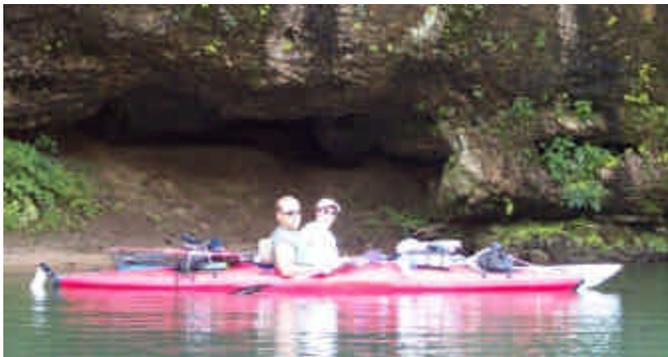
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[Above, Delaware & Kansas River Trip, June 30, 2003, Back Row L-R: Pat Cullen, Geoff Swanson, Mark Swanson, R.J. Stephenson, Chris Collins, Lyle Kaufmann. Front Row L-R: Sarah Swanson, Bethany Brown, Bo Cullen, Zach Lafferty, Bruce Lafferty]



[Above Craig Rebecca, Colton, & Trenton Geary - on the Salmon River - photo by Jackie Rawlings]



[Above Keith & Sandy Ratzloff on the Current River - photo by Judy & Mike Jones]



[Above L-R: Ray Cowin, Bill Cutler, Greg Lazear, Jack Shumard, and Fran Lazear in the shade of the "Wild Bunch Cabin" at Fort Bottom - photo by Cliff Long]



[Above, L-R: Dave Murphy, Cliff Long & T.J. Hittle inside an old cabin on the Salmon River, ID - photo by Jackie Rawlings]



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Stolen Kayak Re-Captured!

By: Joan Grim

[Editor's Note: I've known TSRA member, Jim McCool for a while and thought our members might learn something from this. Reprinted from the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) Newsletter with permission]

Two years ago, Jim McCool had his Redline kayak stolen from his vehicle at Green Hills Mall in Nashville. He was on his way to teach a TSRA class, stopped to run a quick errand at the mall, and when he returned to his truck, he had no boat, no paddle, no throw rope, and no floatation. However, the saying "what goes around comes around" characterizes the next chapter in this amazing story.

Jim spotted his Redline kayak at Powerhouse put-in at the Hiwassee River on Saturday, August 2, 2003, two years after the theft. What follows is a short, modified stage script of the events.

Jim began inspecting this boat's outfitting and identifying special additions he had made on his stolen Redline that are identical to those on this boat.

Jim: This is my boat that was stolen off my truck at Green Hills Mall two years ago.

Perp's Buddy: (Deer- in-the-headlights looks).

Jim: Who was planning on paddling it today?

This is my boat and I'm taking it home with me today.

Perp's Buddy: Our friend who is running shuttle. (Perp arrives at the scene.)

Jim: This is my boat that was stolen off my truck at Green Hills Mall two years ago and I'm taking it home with me today.

Perp: (Deer-in-the-headlights look). I feel really bad, I didn't know it was stolen when I paid \$150.00 to some guy I went to high school with, but I don't know his name, and who has since disappeared to New York.

Jim: This is my boat that was stolen off my truck at Green Hills Mall two years ago. I added the rescue cleat and the tow loop and that's my three-piece break away paddle that looks like it's been painted.

Perp: I, uh, painted the paddle. Now I feel bad. I thought it was odd that he was only charging me \$150.00 for all of this stuff. I don't know what to do, but ... (sheepish look).

Perp's Uncle enters the scene.

Perp's Uncle: I think Perp should paddle the boat today. It's not fair that we came all the way up here and he can't paddle and I can't take him home to tell his dad, who is a prominent attorney in Nashville, that he's out \$150.00. We'll take the boat to Nashville and get back in touch with you in Nashville.

(Cast of characters' collective thoughts: Is he joking? He must think we were born yesterday).

Perp's Buddy: (Begins flicking his river knife open and shut, open and shut).

Jim: This is my boat that was stolen off my truck at Green Hills Mall two years ago. I added the rescue cleat and the tow loop and that's my three-piece break away paddle that has been painted. I was out over \$1,000.00 after losing this boat and I had to buy a new boat to replace it. I filed a police report and an insurance claim and this boat is NOT going down this river today.

Cast of characters call to the Park Service to request assistance.

Park Ranger and TVAP arrive at the scene with lights flashing. They take individual statements from Jim and Perp.

Cast of Characters: (To Park Ranger and TVAP). Jim's Paddling Buddy: "Jim has pulled me out of the river many times using that rescue cleat. I remember one time when I saw Elvis."

TVAP: (He inspects the boat, looks in the cockpit, and pulls out a throw rope. The throw rope has Jim McCool's name on it, crossed out, and Perp's name written under it). This boat is obviously stolen. I'm taking it to the police department for further investigation. I'll be in contact with you Mr. McCool.

All joking aside, we are hopeful that Jim will get his boat back. He was firm, kept calm and he had several particular identifying features on this Redline that he and other club members recognized as his. And, of course, his name was on the throw rope. Otherwise, a similar situation could be one person's word against the other person's word. The take home message for all of us who have invested lots of time and money in our boats and equipment is this:

1. Record the serial number of your boats in a safe place. If the boat is stolen, that serial number becomes part of the written police report and the boat's ownership can be traced back to you.

2. Put your name in indelible ink or engrave it somewhere in the boat that only you would know to look for it. Do the same with your other equipment.

3. Paddle with friends. They are credible witnesses and can corroborate your story if anything like this should happen to you.

4. Take photos of the boat, you, and your gear together. File them where they can be found.

Kansas Paddling Guides - old & new

By TJ Hittle

Don Charvat, a KCA member and canoeist from Belle Plaine, KS, first published the original Kansas Canoe Trails Guide in 1976. Don covered 17 rivers in his guide. In his introduction, Don acknowledged the support and information provided by members of the Kansas Canoe Association.

During the early 80's, the Kansas Canoe Association's original Kansas Canoe Trail guides were printed as single sheets for each of 15 separate river runs in Kansas. By the late 80's, the Kansas Fish & Game Commission (now Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks) had stopped printing these and the guides were sadly lacking on current information.

In 1996, one year after the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page was created, personal responses to requests for river trip information that had been pent up for nearly ten years were consuming a huge amount of time. More travel, research time, and effort

was poured into the fledgling KANSAS PADDLER Home Page. The result was a canoe and kayak float trip Internet publication called the Kansas Paddler's guide. The concept was to offer it FREE over the Internet, add maps, add an interactive river gauges, key river information, and keep it updated. The first publication was the Kansas Paddler's Guide - Volume 1, Rivers of the North-Central Kansas. Cliff Long, a KCA member from Wichita, had already developed a guide for the Arkansas River basin but it was not available over the web.

As time rolled on, more requests were made for river information on various individual sections of the 170-mile long Kansas River. That portion of the Kansas Paddler's Guide was eventually split out as Volume 2. A very small Volume 3 was begun in 2003 due to more requests for whitewater play spot locations. At the time of creation for each volume, I placed a web page counter on each volume. In 2003, the total number of visits to the collective Kansas

Paddler's Guides alone exceeded 13,000.

In 2001, after the Friends of the Kaw developed their own website, they produced a similar publication for the Kansas River only and included photos.

In 2003, the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, together with new grant monies, stepped back up to the plate and a new Kansas Paddler's Guide To Public Streams of Kansas will soon be published. Our very own Dave Murphy, a former President of the Kansas Canoe Association and former RiverKeeper for the Friends of the Kaw, is the main author for the new publication. Its focus is on public rivers, streams, and upper reaches of various public lakes that feature public access and public water.

No publication date has been set, but for more information, you can contact Cheri Swayne via email at the KDWP offices in Topeka at: hatcaptain@wp.state.ks.us or Dave Murphy at davemurphy@direcway.com

Durechen Creek - Trip Report

Aug 9 and Aug 17 – Trip Reports

By Chris Collins

I had originally scheduled a float trip to Fall River but due to water conditions I relocated it to be a paddle trip exploring Durechen Creek north of El Dorado Lake August 9. I thought this would be a “get by” location so we could camp and paddle even though the rivers were dried up. Durechen Creek turned out to be such a pleasant experience that I scheduled a second trip for August 17 for some of those who could not participate the first time.

Those in attendance on August 9 were Noel Hire, Jim Cox, David Browne, Sharon McCampbell, Keith McCampbell and myself. All had kayaks. We launched about 7:15 AM and paddled up the mouth of Durechen Creek, explored several nooks and crannies, and then paddled under Highway 177 and up

the narrow creek to the east. I measured 69 degrees inside my tent during the night and the sunrise temperature was 71 degrees. It was mostly cloudy with almost no wind. It did not get hot until we were about done. I think we had all returned to the put-in point by 11:00 AM.

Those in attendance on August 17 were James Christians, Ben Postlewait, Stacy Postlewait, Buseer Sayeed and myself. Ben and Stacy paddled a canoe and the rest of us paddled kayaks. The night was a little warmer for this trip but we all had a great time. We launched a few minutes after 6:00 AM and except for James, we were all finished and headed for air conditioning by 10:00 AM. James stayed behind to prepare a breakfast and just enjoy nature a little longer. We all agreed that paddling is a great way to enjoy a sunrise. While at the lake, I did some scouting for a future Walnut River trip.

(July 4th Float - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Yvonne from all of us for your hospitality.

For the Friday evening float we launched from Bill's sandbar at 6:10 PM with intentions of floating to the Belle Plaine Road Bridge for a distance of 5.90 miles and an estimated 3:00 hours. Our speed was grossly over estimated and nowhere near that of the morning trip. For starters we had two tandem kayaks with a deep draft that caused them to get stuck frequently. Bill and I both ran sweep to help them. It must have taken an hour to make the first mile. When we reached a point just past the end of Bill's property we helped the two tandem kayaks and their pilots to exit the river. Bill hiked back to the cabin to get his truck and then hauled them back to camp. They were all most gracious that they did not have to continue towing their boats.

The four remaining boats piloted by Lyle Kaufmann, Charles Benjamin, Yvonne and myself continued to the original take-out at the bridge on the Belle Plaine Road. I think we should have exited with the rest of the group but Lyle and Charles were already too far down river to communicate this idea with them.

Bill had provided Charles with a real kayak for the evening trip and he did much better. As far as I know, Yvonne was the only one to be bucked off her boat and she did provide some entertainment for the rest of us. In all fairness, she did as well as anyone could have done in trying to keep her whitewater kayak up with three touring kayaks. She IS a superior paddler. I stayed back with Yvonne and tried to keep Charles and Lyle in sight.

We all got stuck many times. The Derby gage height was only 2.24 feet as compared to 5.26 feet for the May 17 KCA Rendezvous trip. We also discovered a rocky bottomed Arkansas River a couple of miles north of the take-out that change the rules for finding the channel. We finally caught up with Lyle and Charles at the take-out just as night was approaching and it was almost too dark to see. The take-out was at the same place we took out on the second day of the KCA Rendezvous only this time instead of an eddy on river left we found a sandbar that covered about half of the river.

By the end of the day, two floats trips and many groundings later Charles Benjamin was the only one who wanted to do a Saturday morning float. I think Charles is now hooked on kayaking. He should be ecstatic when he experiences cool weather and real water.

(Green River - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

later found that the red effected the river past the town of Green River.) Some of the crew got so cold in the rain and wind that we made a warm up stop before reaching camp.

The next day Bob, John, Les, and I floated Swallow Canyon. The weather was still nasty so the Moudrys and Brodericks helped move vehicles to our next camp at Swinging Bridge before taking off for a warmer place. Rob, Caitlin, and Mick went hiking. Jean and Patti took the day off.

The third day was cloudy but warmer without rain as we made our way to Crook Campground.

The last day was the warmest and sunniest day of the trip. From Swinging Bridge to Lodore Ranger Station (our final destination) was basically flat water.



Dagger Kayaks

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White	Michael	2502 North Van Buren	Hutchinson	KS	67502-2042	620-665-3704	marshallwhite@sbcglobal.net
Wilds	Richard & Edna	1520 Wyndham Heights Dr	Manhattan	KS	66503	785-539-4695	michaelwilds@yahoo.com
Williams	Dean	6109 West Highway 18	Junction City	KS	66441-8314	785-762-3335	rich@ksu.edu
Wilson	Dennis & Christine	2537 SE Blair Drive	Topeka	KS	66605	785-266-6591	
Wise	Charlie & Marcia	5212 West 76th Street	Prairie Village	KS	66208	913-648-6709	lwhtewater@hotmail.com
Wood	Karla & Allan	1780 South Highland Drive	Moab	UT	84532	435-259-1614	bigh2o@lasal.net
Ziesemer		9368 Ohio Street	Omaha	NE	68134	402-392-2883	

find the deeper water.

Tip #2: When one well-defined bend is followed by another well-defined bend in the opposite direction the channel will have to cross the river between the two bends. It will most likely begin to cross soon after the first bend stops deflecting or turning the current.

Tip #3: Watch for shiny and darker colored water. Even in windy conditions shallow water will have more ripples than deeper water. Tiny waves are generated when fast moving water flows across the bottom. In deeper water these waves are dampened before they reach the surface. Beware of areas of still water and areas that are shielded from a strong breeze. These areas can appear shiny and still be shallow. This tip will be especially helpful when there are no clearly defined bends in the river and the current is free to meander around.

Tip #4: Watch the silt, seeds, cotton and suds on the surface of the water. They are often more concentrated over the channel and in the faster water. The objects on surface can help you locate the faster moving water, where the channel is usually located.

Tip #5: Watch your path for a line of ripples followed by shiny water. The ripple line will usually mark the shallowest downstream part of a sandbar. The water will be deeper right after the line and you may get stuck before reaching it. If you spot a break in the line of ripples, this area will be less shallow.

Tip #6: Watch others in your group and learn from their successes and their mistakes. If possible observe the undisturbed water surface in front of the lead boat. If a canoe is in the lead, observe a change in the depth that canoe paddle is inserted in the water. Canoe paddles can sometimes provide a clue because they are usually inserted nearly vertical and the full paddle can't be inserted vertically in shallow water.

Tip #7: If you do get stuck, stand up and observe what happened and where you should go next. Lines identifying sandbars and narrow paths of shiny water are much easier to see when your eyes are elevated.

Tip #8: If the river straightens out, expect the channel to become much less defined and not so deep. The channel can split in two or more paths and sometimes disappear. The shiny water tip may be the only one that provides hope.

Tip #9: If sandbars are prevalent, watch for thick sharp edges on the sandbars that appear as though they are caving into the water. This is evidence that the sandbar is being carved away by the current. Deeper and darker colored water is usually found near these thick sharp edges. Sandbars that gradually taper into the water indicate shallow water near the sandbar.

Tip #10: Attach a leash to your boat. Sometimes the river channel simply disappears into multiple and shallow threads. Bow and stern lines can make it easy to pull your boat with your back straight or secure it while you get a snack or help a friend.

Tip #11: A kayak or canoe that is well balanced does much better in drafting the shallow areas than one in which either the bow or stern is heavier or unbalanced. Often, one can reposition gear and/or extra paddlers to help balance the load.

Good Luck & I'll see you on a river!



(KCA Member...Bill Cather - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

offered us some fresh homemade bread until other participants arrived for the evening float trip.

We finally put our boats in the river around 6 PM only to find out that we had to walk much of the river because it was so low to float our tandem boats. After floating for about 1 ½ hours Bill suggested that we pull out, because it would be too dark by the time we reached the scheduled take-out point.

Bill felt that the other 4 boaters could make it to the take-out because there was only one person per boat and they had a shallow draft. Bill helped us drag our boats out of the water, up a small embankment loaded with poison ivy and then about a half mile through sand, woods, poison ivy and weeds to get back to his property.

From the edge of his property we walked about another half mile to a small cabin on a hill. He left us at the cabin and walked another 15 minutes to get his pickup. He then returned to rescue us from the heat and take our boats back to the Old Goat Ranch. I stayed with the boats while he took the three ladies to the air-conditioned mobile home. Then he returned for me.

After picking me up we went down to where the kayaks were and loaded them into his pickup. He dropped two of the kayaks off at his garage and then took mine up to where my car was. He then stopped to help me load my kayak onto my car and offered for me to go back to his home and take a shower to wash off any possible poison ivy residue. I cannot say too much for this man. He is one of the kindest and most hospitable men that I have met in a long, long time.

[Editor's Note: Thank you, Mr. Warnky, for letting us print such a nice note about one of our most dedicated KCA members.]

(What I Learned..... - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

passed the stress test he experienced in the ten seconds or so it took me to come up from under my kayak after my first disastrous encounter with item #2.

4. Zip-lok plastic bags are not always waterproof, nor are snap top plastic containers (the good bags are worth it) and when they tell you to tie down everything, they mean it (see item #3.)

5. Raccoons in our national parks have undergone advanced commando training in how best to pillage a campsite in complete darkness. Anything not inside a tent or locked into a hatch is fair game, even behind seats and inside bags. Gorp seems to be a local favorite, judging by the squabbling going on.

6. Nothing designed by Disney engineers could ever compare to the beautiful ride floating silently down a pristine waterway with rustling leaves, chuckling rapids, and birds calling all around. The turtles, the shy whitetail deer, the incredible display of fireflies after dark – Mother Nature's own animatronics are the best.

7. Dehydrated and lightweight foods can be really tasty. I was skeptical, but we ate like royalty. Keith and Sandy's planning paid off with a combination of commercial dehydrated meals (very easy to prepare after a day's paddle), dry mixes from the grocery store, and a few fresh foods such as fruits, eggs and cheese.

8. Any man who makes a point of dumping his kayak at least as many times as his klutzy wife does is a keeper. It is a good thing, however, that he had a corroborating witness to the copperhead in the rootwad, and there doesn't seem to be any way he could have bribed that fly fisherman.

9. Always pack out your trash! The smallest trace of man's intrusion into the wilderness stands out as a blot on Nature's beauty.

10. Wear sunscreen!

11. My biggest concern about this outstanding trip – with Sandy Ratzloff's meticulous planning, the convenience of camping on gravel



[Above: Sandy Ratzloff on the Current River - photo by Keith Ratzloff]

bars, the glorious beauty of the Ozarks, and the pleasure of our friends' company – is that it's going to be really tough to match, much less exceed. I'm afraid we'll spend years of vacations with the Ratzloffs saying things like "this was fun, but not like the Current River!" Oh, well, it was worth it.

KCA Accessories

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Contact Pat Cullen
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Need a membership application for you or a friend. Copy this one or go on-line in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page.



KCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: _____

Name #1: _____

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[THIS PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEWSLETTER ROSTER]

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

- Family/Flatwater Canoeing (Class I-II)
- Kayak Touring (Class I-II)
- Whitewater Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting (Class III+)

CHECK ONE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

- _____ \$15.00 Single / Family Membership
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(w/a 6 column inch KCA Newsletter ad & KCA website ad)
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(does not include chapter dues)
- _____ My additional contribution to KCA Conservation-Access Program

OPTIONAL CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

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Please fill out this form completely, even if you are renewing. Send the application and your check for TOTAL OF ALL FEES to:

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Please tell us how you heard about the Kansas Canoe Association - check all that apply:

- From a friend who boats
- Another KCA Member
- KANSAS PADDLER Home Page
- Information at a business, name: _____
- Article in News Media
- A KCA activity booth
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KCA depends upon volunteer efforts. I am willing to help with these activities:

- Marketing/Membership
- Flatwater/Touring Trips
- Whitewater Trips
- Instruction/Safety
- Special Events, Rendezvous, etc
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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 COORDINATORS, 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 COORDINATORS, 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 CLAIMS, 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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revised: 04/22/03

The Kansas Canoe Association (KCA), organized April 26, 1975, is a Kansas Not-For-Profit Corporation. KCA is an organization of canoeists, kayakers, and rafters working together to promote river running education, conservation, access and related activities. Various Chapters of KCA may be established within KCA to help support the specific interests of Chapter members

KCA Bylaws, Outdoor Code, KCA History, Paddling Tips, Trip Waiver Forms, a list of businesses that extend KCA Members a discount, and much more can be found on-line in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page on the Membership Page

Editor's Column

Hey, we made it another year with four issues. Whew! Please accept my apologies for the late delivery.

The articles and photos came in slowly prior to this issue but steadily grew until we finally ran out of room again. You will also notice that the membership roster continues to grow and bumped a little more space from the newsletter along with the additions of two more KCA Associate Members. Of course, that is all GOOD NEWS!

It has really been wonderful seeing so many KCA members helping out with various

festivals and events where we can glean some awareness of our club. Our new banners will add to the visibility. So I'll see you at a



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

KCA Board meeting, River Festival, Event Booth,

KCA Annual Meeting in 2004, or my personal favorite.....on a river!

Wooden Boats and Skin Boats

By Bob Sinnett

Recently, a friend of mine introduced me to two works on bark canoes and skin boats. The history, methods of construction, and cultural aspects of these modes of transportation is revealed in great detail. The photos in the second reference listed below reveal bark canoes as an art form. These sources are:

1) Adney, E.T. & Chapelle, H.I. (1983) *The Bark Canoe and Skin Boats of North America*

2) Behne, C.T. (2002) *The Adney Collection Wooden Boat*, No 169, pp. 66-75

Tidbits of information in the latter are fascinating revelations. For example, Europeans were admiring and adopting native design without modifications for 400 years. Similarities were noted among canoes constructed in Siberia and those made by natives of British Columbia. The influence on contemporary canoes is also notes.

My own limited experience in the domain of canoe construction took place in the 1960's when a graduate student and I constructed a canoe from a wooden frame kit covered with paint soaked canvas. It served us well until an untimely demise. I learned that Rocky Ford (Big Blue River) was more than a poetic name.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- ☞ *St. George River Festival – trip report*
- ☞ *Labyrinth & Stillwater Canyons – trip report*

KCA NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

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



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[KCA & Kayak Chapter logs by Rex Replogle]

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