



New River Access on the Kansas River!

By TJ Hittle

gain public and legislative attention towards awareness of the sad state of public access on our rivers in Kansas. Formed in 1975, KCA members worked long and hard lobbying state agencies and in the legislature to gain better access for our rivers in Kansas through various bills promoting a State Scenic Rivers System and eventually a Kansas Supreme Court case that ruled against public access on all rivers in Kansas except the three so called "navigable" rivers, the Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri River.

Twenty years later, in 1995, the Friends of the Kaw were incorporated and the battle was renewed with "new blood" and fresh voices. By then, most of the river pioneers had dropped out of the activist scene. During the final

moments of the 1996 Kansas legislative session, the passage of the mandated Kansas River

Recreation Study was tacked on another bill and the race began anew. It was a five state agency collaborative study.

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In case you hadn't heard, history is being made in St. George, KS. It has been a long journey and an even longer history, but St. George, KS is finally getting a public river access constructed on the banks of the Kansas River. Despite well over 25 years of attending public meetings, writing letters to various State agencies, and testifying in legislative hearings, year after year powerful legislators have been able to slash funds appropriated for Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP). These funds were earmarked for providing various public river accesses proposed to help provide recreational links between the many river towns along the Kansas River. In some cases, opposing comments in legislative committees came from some of the very legislators whose own constituents would benefit the most.

Dating back to the mid 70's, the early river pioneers in Kansas and charter members of the Kansas Canoe Association (KCA) tried desperately to



[Above Left: Westar Caterpillar making the first bankside cut; Above Right: Looking SE downstream; Above Bottom: Westar Green Team members: Brad Loveless and Wes Hoerner at work surveying the new river access boat ramp. photos by Bob Sinnett]

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Grand Canyon 2002 - Trip Report

By Brenda Covert

Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek – 225 river miles

If I had to describe our Grand Canyon trip in one word, it would be WOW! Bob Harris spent innumerable hours planning and it showed in the trip's smoothness. Jackie Rawlings, TJ Hittle, and Nancy Seamons planned dessert and bought food. Others on the trip were: RJ Stephenson, John Foster, Dave Murphy, Chuck McHenry, Diane Duncil, Dave Smallwood, Chris Goodwin, Bob Coltharp, and Tom and Brenda Covert. The cooperation, kindness, helpfulness, and competence of this group made it a great trip.

The Grand Canyon is a paradise for geologists, artists, and photographers. Its colors and its scales are beyond description. Riffles have another river's Class III-sized waves. Kayakers can't see over the waves in many rapids. Waves break over rafts,

rafters, and raft-riders, and sneakily splash from the side, refreshing on a hot day. Strong eddies and whirlpools add their own challenge; "play holes" add to the fun; and the "flat water" in between allows time for conversation and appreciation of the canyon and its calm quiet.

At Lees Ferry the Colorado River



[Above: Nancy Seamons & Tom Covert flip in Crystal rapids - photo by TJ Hittle]

was forty-seven degrees and clear. The Little Colorado contributed our first

"chocolate" addition of sediment. It cleared somewhat over the next several days. As we continued downriver and rain fell on the surrounding countryside, the river became brown, then red-brown.

We offered safety service below some rapids for other groups and they returned the favor. Kayakers and rafters talked with other raft groups and guides, adding to inter-group camaraderie and cooperation in camp choices. When needs arose, someone was always ready and able to help with trail knowledge, extra water, pump and filter, hat, shoes, warm clothes, flashlights, and tent flies for absent hikers when unexpected rain fell. John Foster, a budding illustrator and cartoonist, sketched the camp surroundings each night, illustrating his log. TJ serenaded us with his guitar and Dave Murphy, sometimes, with his harmonica. Dave Smallwood contributed bubbles that we could hold. Chuck McHenry

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Desolation/Gray Canyons (of the Green River, UT) - 2002 Trip Report

By Cliff Long



If you want to make a river look different try it with most of the water gone. I had run this section of the river previously as low as 1,690

cfs but when we were ready to launch July 31st the flow was only 850 cfs. The ranger at Sand Wash assured us that it was possible to float at this level as she had done it the previous week. We left some of our water behind and couldn't take charcoal or use firewood, due to the fire hazard, so we didn't need to take fire

pans or grills so the load was a little lighter. At this level all of those places that the guide shows as having a riffle or rapid that I hadn't been able to find before showed up. Our group consisted of Chuck Stroh (K-1), Linda Law (K-1), Steven Long (OC-1), Bob Coltharp (raft), Rob Long (cataraft), and Cliff Long (cataraft). Yes, Steven and Rob are related to me, they're my sons.

The first day on the river is flat water with little current. There was plenty of company on the river as there was an Outward Bound group that had launched the night before and camped a quarter mile downstream and two commercial groups that launched after us. The commercials used gasoline to make up

for paddlers interested in paddling flat water. We did manage over 12 miles before making camp.

The Utes had the rangers warning us not to trespass on their reservation so many of our usual stops and hikes (petroglyphs, Moonshiner's Cabin, the iron bowed skiff, etc.) on the left were off limits to us this trip. Camp two was below Jack Creek Rapid.

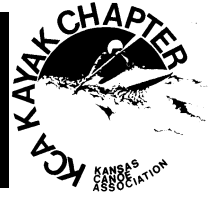
At Rock Creek we stopped and topped our water supply in the creek. After filtering water we moved on down and camped at the far Rock Creek Ranch site. It was good to set camp as we had fought the wind since 9 AM. At camp we were treated to a light rain to go with the wind. For our rain-delayed supper Rob did his cooking duties in a real chef's shirt. Day four again gave us wind most of the day. Camp was at the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



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/

January 11th - 4:00 pm. KCA Board Meeting in Manhattan. All KCA members are welcome. For details contact: Jackie Rawlings (785)537-0164 or email rawlings@kansas.net

January 19th - Eagle Float, Arkansas River, Grouse Creek to Trader's Bend, contact Cliff Long at (316) 253-9216 or clifflong@kansasriverrat.com.

February 16th - Eagle Float, Arkansas River, Grouse Creek to Trader's Bend, contact Cliff Long at (316) 253-9216 or clifflong@kansasriverrat.com.

March 1st - KCA ANNUAL MEETING/KAYAK CHAPTER PARTY. Meeting at 3:00 PM. See the WINTER PADDLER ISSUE for more details.

March 9th, 2003. Rocky Ford to Kaw Valley ramp in Manhattan, KS. 8 miles, Class I. Contact Mick O'Shea mjoshea@lycos.com or (785) 539-2279

March 17-21, 2003, Spring Break. The exact place for this float has not been decided but it will be in southern Mississippi or eastern Texas. The plan is to spend five days on a class I river camping as we go. Contact Cliff Long at (316) 253-9216 or clifflong@kansasriverrat.com.

April - Check the KANSAS PADDLER HOME PAGE (trips-events page) for short-notice trips.

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

May - Check the KANSAS PADDLER HOME PAGE (trips-events page) for short-notice trips.

May 3rd & 4th - Day Floats in the Flint Hills - river/creek to be determined. Contact T.J. Hittle at (785) 539-7772 or email: tjhittle@kansas.net

June 7th & 8thth, 2003. PADDLE SKILLS WEEKEND in Manhattan, KS. See the WINTER PADDLER ISSUE for more details. Contact Mick O'Shea mjoshea@lycos.com or (785) 539-2279

June 1st to August 15th - Whitewater permits to be applied for include Rio Chama, Canyon of Lodore (Green River), Desolation and Gray Canyons (Green River), Rogue River, class III-IV, Main Salmon. class III-IV. Possible non permit trips (some to supplement permitted runs) being considered. Permit notification date is March 1st so check for details at <http://www.kansasriverrat.com/> or contact Cliff Long at (316) 253-9216 or clifflong@kansasriverrat.com.

June - Check the KANSAS PADDLER HOME PAGE (trips-events page) for short-notice trips.

Middle Fork (of the Salmon River, ID) 2002 - Trip Report

By Marcia & Charlie Wood

The Middle Fork of the Salmon, next to the Grand Canyon, is THE prime wilderness run in this country known for its exquisite beauty and exciting rapids. We were really pleased when Gary and Jeri Gleiter-Messinger invited us on their trip. The put-in date was July 1, and there was a party of 12 with 6

rafts. The water level had dropped to 2.89 ft. when we put in. This made for several days, especially the first two, of continuous rock-dodging in the fast current. Every raft was stuck at least once, but fortunately, not for long. What struck Charlie and me was the difference between the present trip and our first one over 20 years ago. At that time, we were

on the river two days before we saw another party, which was not large. Now, some of the parties seem to exceed the 24-person limit, and there were pods of kayakers and inflatables supported by more sweep boats than we had ever seen before.

We were lucky to see quite a few Bighorn sheep, and a foraging bear just

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KCA Outdoor Code, adopted April 26, 1975

As a Kansas Canoe Association Member, I profess to the following Code of Conduct:

- I will at all times display respect for the land and water, treating the same as a valuable and finite natural resource
- I am dedicated to the conservation of streams and rivers and to the protection of natural scenic land and water resources
- I respect riparian landowner rights and will abide by the following rules:
 - o I will secure or seek permission before entering private land with wheeled vehicles
 - o I will not chase or harass livestock, leave gates open, cut fences, or in anyway vandalize private property
 - o I will gain access to streams and rivers at public road bridges or will use private access with permission only
- I will carry out and/or properly dispose of all my litter including litter left behind by others when possible
- I will respect all fishing and hunting laws and will not discharge firearms except where permitted by law and then only in a safe manner
- All camp fires will be properly attended and thoroughly extinguished after use

President's Column

By Jackie Rawlings

The Annual Meeting will be March 1st at our house in Manhattan. Please plan to attend. See more details in this issue.

There are so many important issues in the world today. Sometimes it is hard to put everything in proper perspective. However, finding ways to decrease the stress, have good times with friends and enjoy nature should be high on the list of importance. What better way then to go canoeing, kayaking or rafting? That's really what the KCA is all about.

It will soon be easier to float at least one section of the Kansas River- the

section from Manhattan to St. George. With the help of Westar Energy Green Team and the determination of Mike



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

Calwell and the Friends of the Kaw and the town of St George, the new access is becoming a reality. I have to admit, I won't miss the mud and poison ivy. Plan to join us on the first float using the new access. Watch for the notice.

The Kansas Legislature will convene for the 2003 session before this newsletter comes out. If you get a call or email asking for letters, phone calls or emails, please don't sit back and expect someone else to do it. The only way we are going to win some of our battles is with grass roots support. Thanks to Dave Murphy with Friends of the Kaw and T.J. Hittle with KCA for keeping their vigilance on our behalf.

(NEW RIVER ACCESS - CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Completed in 1998, it included a public survey, economic studies regarding river recreation on the Kansas River, and draft recommendations to protect the Kansas River from commercial degradation. It also promoted a series of public river accesses along the 170-mile corridor from Junction City to Kansas City. The study recommended adoption of the KDWP Kansas River Recreation Access Plan. Completed in 1996, that plan listed St. George and Perry, KS as the top two sites for a series of public river accesses along the Kansas River corridor. KCA was among the key groups that were on the steering committee formed to help guide that plan.

Time went on and it became obvious that the legislature had long forgotten their mandated study on public river access. Numerous attempts to budget public funds from Kansas Water Plan funds, the Boat Fee fund, and Eco-Devo funds were voted down in legislative committee after committee. But the state agencies answer to the legislature and as a rule, most state agencies refused to actively fight legislative slashing of their agency river access funding. Support for river access came from a great many groups, including the Sierra Club, Audubon, Kansas Natural Resource Council (KNRC), Kansas

Wildlife Federation, and others. Despite overwhelming support from recreational, environmental groups, and constituents, it was painfully obvious that powerful legislative forces were determined to beat down the common sense concept of "public funds for public accesses."

After numerous defeats in legislature, many of the natural resource and recreational groups began to support the idea of the solicitation of private funding for a public space. This could be a single group or perhaps a collaboration of private/public funds. Numerous options were discussed. From there, Mike Calwell (KCA Past President) and FOK Board Member took the lead in working directly with the City of St. George, KS. They worked through several proposals and issues relating to the need for public land, river access, funding, railroad right-of-way issues, maintenance, permits, and construction expertise. Sites came and went but finally went back to the original site near Blackjack Creek and property that the City of St. George owned adjacent to their sewer treatment plant. After agreements were made and the state and federal permits were obtained, the Westar Energy "Green Team" stepped forward with full steam ahead to begin construction in late December 2002.

Along the way, several groups stepped forward to help with funding, materials, and volunteer labor, including: Westar Energy, City of St. George, Federation of Flyfishers, Friends of the Kaw, Kansas Canoe Association (KCA), Kayak Chapter of KCA, and others. There is still much to do including work to rehabilitate the site after construction, help with riparian plantings, seeding, sitting areas, and public parking. Work will continue with final completion planned for spring 2003 with the Westar Energy "Green Team" as lead site constructor. Volunteers and help with financial support are welcome. Volunteers should contact Brad Loveless, Sr. Mgr for the "Green Team" at: brad_loveless@wr.com. For donations, contact: Molly Mangerich, Friends of the Kaw President, (785) 841-8655 or email at: mmangerich@ci.lawrence.ks.us. It's a "small step for paddlers and a giant leap for Kansas canoesport." To see the progress of the new river access as it happens, follow the regular image updates and movie files posted on the Kansas Paddler Home Page at: www.kansas.net/~tjhittle. We'll see you on the Kaw at St. George in 2003!



KCA Paddle Skills Weekend - June 7th & 8th



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: L-R, an ACA Canoe class & instructor Mick O'Shea - photo by T.J. Hittle]

Annual Meeting / Kayak Chapter Party Saturday - March 1st



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KCA will be March 1 at the Rawlings-Hittle residence- 700 Gillespie Drive in Manhattan. The Annual Meeting will start at 3:00 pm. At approximately 5:00 pm we will have a potluck dinner. The KCA will provide the meat dish & pop. Please RSVP Jackie Rawlings if you are staying for dinner. 785-537-0164 or email rawlings@kansas.net. Feel free to bring any prospective members.

Please bring a side dish or salad or dessert or snacks. BYOB. Please bring your boating trip

slides, photos and stories. We will also be filling in dates for river trips and events, so bring your calendars too.

Directions to our house/home office:

(from I-70 and Exit 303):

Take Exit 303 and turn North towards Manhattan. Continue on K-18 for ~10 miles towards Manhattan. You will pass Stagg Hill Golf Course(right before you head up a large hill towards Manhattan). About 1 mile past the Stagg Hill Golf Course, you will come to the top of a hill. Turn South (right) on Davis Drive. Continue for 1/2 block and turn East (left) on Geneva Dr. Take Geneva to Gillespie Dr. Turn left and immediately see the stone archway on the right at 700 Gillespie Dr.

Welcome New Members

Corbin, Jr., Mason & Terry - Prairie Village, KS

Doel, Kevin - Topeka, KS

Evers, Susanne - Leavenworth, KS

Feldkamp, Galen - Richmond, KS

Sherman, Owen - Kansas City, MO

Snook, Geoff - Wichita, KS

Warnky, Russell - Bel Aire, KS

(MIDDLE FORK SALMON - CONT. FROM PAGE 3)

upstream from Sheepeaters' Meadow, on river right. We didn't stay long when he swam across! Another day when we were camped at Whitey Cox, I was sitting in a tepid hot spring pool when something brushed my elbow. It was a 5' long snake. I like snakes but didn't expect to find one in my "bathtub!"

One day, as Charlie and I passed an eddy, amongst the kayakers was a C-1er. Charlie thought that he looked familiar. When asked his name, he said, "Kent Ford." We had never met him so this was a high point of the trip for us. He held onto the raft while we drifted and talked of mutual acquaintances. You just never know whom you are going to meet on river trips!

Of course, we ate very well. The most special dinner came on the 4th of July. David and Jolene had a complete, typical American meal for us: Shrimp appetizer, dips, grilled hamburgers and sausages, baked beans, potato salad, fresh sweet corn, and two of the most enormous pies we had ever seen, apple and berry. You wouldn't think that we would want breakfast after that, but we did.

We had some additional luxuries on this trip. There were two neat pump arrangements for hand washing, and a propane-heated shower that was set-up each evening. There were some thundershowers late in the trip, and a storm on the seventh day. The beautiful clear water turned to a dark chocolate brown. When we reached the Main Salmon on the eighth day, we could see the green water turn brown as the Middle Fork flowed into it. It was amazing that with all the people taking out at Cache Bar and the piles of equipment to be unloaded, we really didn't have to wait long for our turn.

This was one of the most enjoyable trips we have been on, and we have Gary and Jeri to thank for the well-organized and safe trip. A big plus was the compatible and considerate group of people.

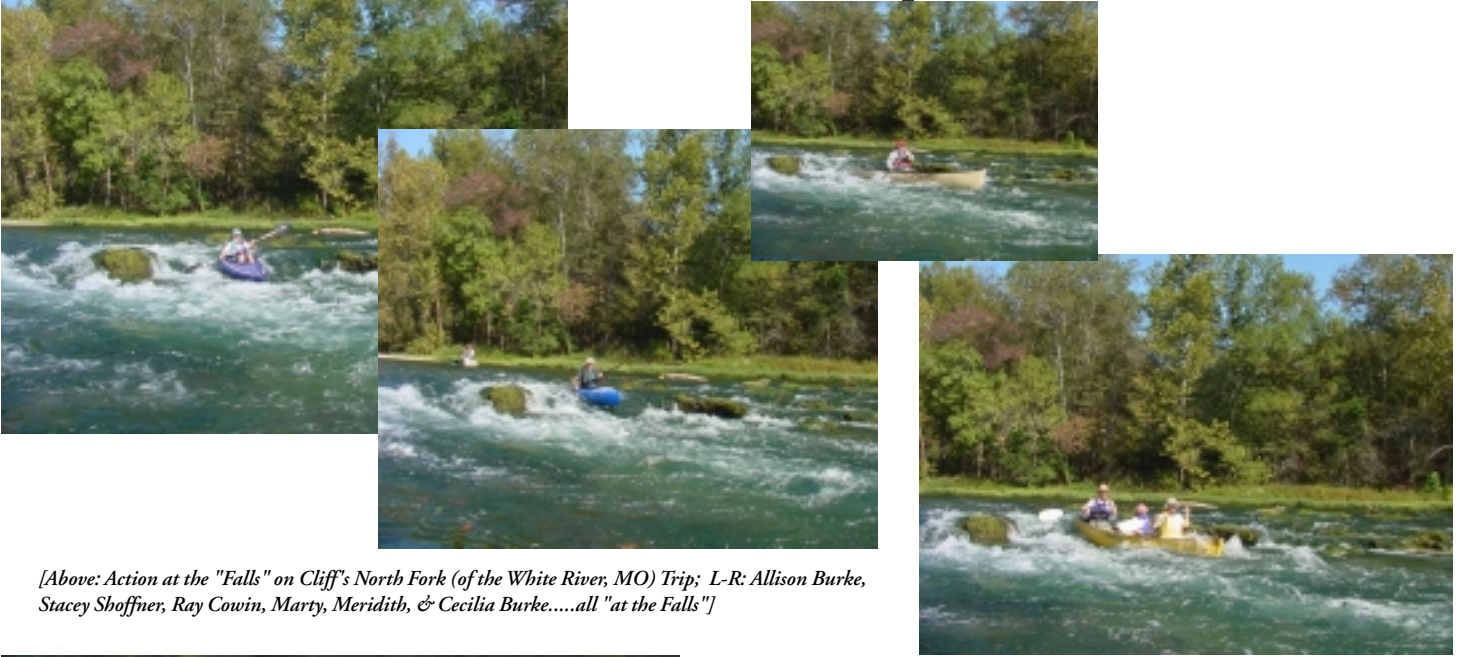
COMPLETE WILDERNESS OUTFITTERS

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



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Actions n' Captions



[Above: Action at the "Falls" on Cliff's North Fork (of the White River, MO) Trip; L-R: Allison Burke, Stacey Shoffner, Ray Cowin, Marty, Meridith, & Cecilia Burke.....all "at the Falls"]



[Above: Bob Harris & Jackie Rawlings in Lava Falls; Right: Tom & Brenda Covert relaxing in camp on the Grand Canyon]



[Above Left: Bob Coltharp on his 14'-Hyside raft; Above Right: Bob Coltharp in Granite Rapids on the Grand Canyon. Editors Note: Bob completed 3 full 18-day Grand Canyon trips this year at age 66]

[Left: R.J. Stephenson on his raft; Above: R.J. Stephenson & Jackie Rawlings passing by a waterfall created by a rare 4 days of wet weather on the Grand Canyon]

A Paddler's Faith in the Weather Channel

By Joe Hyde



One of the great satisfactions in being an experienced 4-season tripper is knowing you possess boating skills and outdoor equipment adequate for paddling safely and camping

comfortably in adverse weather. This higher level of self-reliance requires a considerable variety of gear. As you accumulate these excellent items you begin going out more, racking up more river miles than ever before. Life is good.

Then one day you realize that despite your experience and equipment, you still are not immune to physical and emotional suffering. Usually this reality hits home after you trust one too many favorable weather forecasts – forecasts you believe in so strongly that you

assume certain gear items will not be needed on a trip. Common sense tells us that our favorite TV weatherman drives home every night and sleeps indoors in secure comfort, so if his cheery forecast proves mistaken he will suffer no personal discomfort as a consequence. We know this, but we keep forgetting. After working all week long, our souls hunger for a fair weather campout under a star-filled sky. The urge becomes irresistible to believe any Happy Face fantasy broadcast by these well-dressed dart throwers we call “weather forecasters”.

Take Sunday, May 26th, for example. The day before, every available forecast said that a line of thunderstorms would move across the central plains overnight, but the system would extend no farther south than east central Nebraska. This meant Lawrence-area skies would be clear all weekend, allowing a Kaw River overnighter! My 16-year old son, Eric, invited his high school buddy Andre. We loaded up and headed out. Soon three


solo canoes were easing down the Kaw on an absolutely gorgeous spring afternoon. It's Andre's first-ever canoe trip.

At our campsite, the boys set up my 2-person Sierra Designs tent, then against my advice they rig the rain fly. My choice of shelter is better suited to the forecast: I rig my Walrus Aero 150 tarp to maximum pole height, then set up my Walrus Bug Hut underneath the tarp. (Bug Huts don't have fabric wall panels; black see-thru netting totally surrounds a nylon bathtub floor.) I felt guilty knowing that come bedtime the boys would roast in their own sweat being cooped inside a close-fitting rain fly. They would suffer while I enjoyed insect-free ventilation and a 360-degree moonlit view of our sandbar and the river channel, thanks to my airy Bug Hut. If any dew formed, the tarp above would shield me. All I'd brought for sleeping warmth was an Army blanket. The boys would learn

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North Fork 2002 - Trip Report

By Cliff Long

 Semi early Saturday morning (October 12th) our little group of intrepid paddlers got together to paddle the North Fork of the White River. Most of us arrived sometime after midnight and were a little groggy. “We” were Lanny and Seanna Daise (OC 2), Gary and Jessica Burch (OC 2), Stacey Shoffner (OC 1), Jim Weaver (K 1), Ray Cowin (K 1), Allison Burke (K 1), Marty, Cecilia, Meredith Burke (OC 3), and Cliff Long (OC 1). Eddy Beard was along as chief shuttle driver and meal organizer. Our put in Saturday was at Hammond Camp east of Dora, Missouri.

“The Falls” failed to receive a single victim. Stacey was our volunteer sacrifice to the river spirits for the weekend. Her second soaking was the most complete but almost to the take

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out at Blair Bridge and was primarily the result of exhaustion. This was her first



[Above: Lunch on the North Fork (of the White River) gravel bar; See Page 7 for more action photos on Cliff's North Fork trip]

solo trip and if she doesn't give up she will be a good solo canoeist.

Supper Saturday was burgers and

dogs by Eddy and potluck by all. Just as supper was about to be served we got a little sprinkle so Marty and I got our tarps out and covered the table and fire. When the rain came we had a great time trying to get the tarps to drain where we thought they should. It was a fun evening of food and stories.

Sunday morning was cooler and Gary, Jessica, Stacey, Seanna, and Lanny left us. Allison and Meredith joined Eddy in touring local mills, etc. The day's paddle was from Blair Bridge to Dawt Mill. Dawt Mill disappointed us by not having cookies for our expected ice cream sandwiches. The colors weren't the best we'd ever seen along the North Fork but the weather was great and so was the paddling.

Doug and Kathy's Excellent Adventure - 2002 Yampa River Expedition - Trip Report

By Jim Johnson



The 2002 Yampa River Expedition brought together all the right elements for a world-class river trip—a spectacular western river, a

great bunch of experienced river runners, and GREAT FOOD. With the river running moderately low, this group of 17 launched from the Deerlodge Park put-in Sunday May 26th for 5 days of geological wonder in the Dinosaur National Monument. Rafters included trip leaders Doug and Kathy Sell, Pat and Bo Cullen, John and Jean Cullen, Brian McCroskey, Spencer McCroskey, and Scott McCroskey, Dan the DUDE, John Summerfield and Brenda Ross, and Lynn Lyon. Kayakers included TJ Hittle, Dave Reid, Neal Cullen, and Jim Johnson.

The Yampa is one of the last free-flowing rivers of the American High Plateau and has been designated a

National Monument for its unique geology and paleontology. Carved over millions of years through Fremont and Weber sandstone formations, the river winds through 46 miles of canyons before meeting the Green River at Echo Park. Generally between 300 and 600 feet, the canyon is marked with mineral stains called “tiger stripes” throughout. Placed in the moonscape of North Western Colorado and Eastern Utah, the canyon becomes a haven for wildlife. We encountered deer, goats, beavers, geese, and one SNAKE. Evidence of early human activity abounds here also, with structures and petroglyphs at several points along the way.

Memorable highlights include the SNAKE, the crickets, one stubborn tree at Warm Springs, 26 dead cows, and the GREAT FOOD. Plus we finished the trip with plenty of ice along with the sight of three doctors removing one splinter from Doug's hand. I want to extend a special thanks to Doug and Kathy for putting this adventure together. It was a privilege to run with this talented, if over educated, team of river runners.

The ACA is a national paddle organization involved in education, river access and many other activities related to paddling. Remember that in the final analysis you are responsible for your own safety. Consider taking one or more of the classes offered in this newsletter to improve your paddle skills and your general river/lake knowledge and safety sense.

(A PADDLER'S FAITH - CONT. FROM
PAGE 8)

from my example: Travel light, but travel right.

At 1:30 a.m. I wake to a sound that's common to this campsite: off in the distance a Union Pacific train is passing to the northeast. But as I lay there, I'm puzzled why that sound is getting steadily louder when the rail line runs away from the river channel. Seconds later – and 200 miles south of where it's supposed to be – the “east central Nebraska” storm nails us. Instantly my Aero 150 is ripped from the ground by a gust so violent that one of the tarp's guy lines breaks a carbon/graphite paddle I'd used for a sand stake. A hard rain pounds the bar, turning my defenseless Bug Hut into a no-see-um carwash. Exiting the Hut, I overturn our canoes after pointing them into the wind, grab every lightweight item I see and stuff it under a boat, then grab my blanket and run for the boys' tent. Zipping its rain fly shut behind me, I hear Eric and Andre sleeping soundly. There's no more room in there and I'm soaked anyway, so I wrap up in my wet Army blanket, lay down on the sand and go fetal in the tiny vestibule. A primordial style, but perfectly suited to the amended forecast.

Well, it's like I told the boys over hash browns and eggs five hours later while my equipment was drying in the morning sun: You gotta pack extra gear on canoe camping trips. Especially in Kansas, where you're never sure what kind of weather you'll get. As novices everywhere often do, the boys just nodded and kept chewing.

From The Safety Education Chr

By Mick O'Shea

As 2003 starts many of us are thinking about permits for western rivers and generally getting out and having fun on the water. Lets also think about being safe doing these activities. There are many things you can do on a river or lake to increase your margin for safety. Many flatwater accidents seem to have two things in common – no lifejacket (e.g. lifejacket on but not fastened or lifejacket sitting in bottom of boat), and alcohol consumption. In whitewater situations a misjudgment of one's skill level often leads to problems.

Generally some things you should think about/do: be dressed for water/ weather conditions, have at least one

(preferably two) other boats in your group, know the skill level of yourself and your fellow paddlers, educate yourself on the river or lake you intend to paddle (hazards, rapids if applicable, location of put-in and take-out), have appropriate first aid and safety/rescue gear with you and know how to use them.

There is a huge amount of information on the web on safety and education. Check out the following sites. <http://www.tfsksu.net/~tjhittle/> the Kansas Paddler website, home of the KCA. KCA has a huge amount of information on local places to paddle, permits, boat rental, and many useful links. <http://www.acanet.org/acanet.htm> the American Canoe Association (ACA) website.

Lower Salmon River 2002 Trip Report

By Cliff Long

“Watch out for the slide,” was the advice of everyone to our group of boaters as we launched on the Lower Salmon River from Hammer Creek on July 5th. None of our group made up of Jim Weaver (IK), Mark Fuge (cataraft), Sara Traub (K-1), Kim Keyser and Chuck Boberschmidt (R-2), Mandy Marlatt and Andy Bush (R-2), Craig, Rebecca, and Colton Geary, and Cliff Long (cataraft), had ever been on this river section so we had only the river guide and people’s warnings to help us down the river. The water level was over 14,000 cfs and falling so the current at the launch area looked nice.

At Shorts Bar we stopped to find the pictographs but didn’t find the old cabin. For our first camp we stopped at the lower Lone Pine Bar campsite. Since it was on the opposite side of the river the road traffic was barely noticeable. This site had some ruins of rock houses remaining from the gold mining days. On the second day we were somewhat surprised by the “long class II rapids” (according to the guide) below Rice Creek Bridge. Down one side it was white and boiling and down the other it was big waves. Only one person was separated from their boat here. At Snow Hole (class IV) we watched a large

group of duckies going down river as we scouted. The last little ducky didn’t follow the leader down the right side but seemed to be trying to take a shortcut. For this he went over a pour over and into a rock, but appeared unhurt when he got past everything. We stayed right, as the lead ducky had, and had a fun, safe trip.

Just over a mile from camp on the third day we came to China Rapids, a blind class III s-curve, that managed to part Jim from his boat and scare the rest of us. We all feared that Jim would be swept into a narrow slot that we didn’t know whether he could get through. Camp that evening was just below Skeleton Creek Rapids (class II). While here, part of the group crossed the river and liked along the dirt road to explore the area. Part of the group swam the rapid for fun and the experience. Craig got caught in an eddy on the far side of the river and nearly exhausted himself trying to get out. On a previous rapid swim Jim had learned how much drag his pants created. The other lesson learned on these seemingly benign rapid swims is, stroke with your hands coming out of the water (use a crawl stroke).

Day four was the day to face our fears and run The Slide (class V-VI over 20,000 cfs). We saw the signs that the

guide said to look for on the approach and slowed down to gain whatever knowledge we could. The guide said, “Scouting is mandatory and quite hard” and “These rapids cannot be lined or portaged without great difficulty.” Mark bravely found a place to park his boat and rock hop around the corner to scout while the rest of us hung around in the eddy above the rapid. He said to take it down the middle, so away we went. The rapid of our fears was at best class II with a short drop and a few waves.

Camping at Coon Hollow the last night gave us a ten mile paddle to the take out on our fifth, and last day, Coon Hollow isn’t the river’s best campsite but it offers hiking, a museum of sorts, and a short paddle to the take out. If your in the area of the Lower Salmon and have the time give it a try. The permits are self-issue and the river wasn’t crowded.



STOP & Check Your

Directory Listing

The KCA Membership Directory is now being published in each newsletter. Please check your listing and verify that membership information is correct.

Newsletters are sent via automated bulk mail. If your address is not exactly correct, your newsletter may end up in the manual sorted pile and delivery may be delayed a week or more.

Remember that trip updates and other KCA info is often sent to all members with email addresses.

Send your changes to:

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6 Puesta Del Sol
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videoed our runs through some rapids; and Bob Harris built an ant trap, clearing the area of red ants.

Each day was different as we passed through varied rock layers with their changing and sometimes glowing colors, starting with Esplanade Sandstone and reaching Vishnu Schist, the oldest exposed rock in the world, interlaced with Zoroaster Granite. Rocks in varied shapes perched on ledges and chimneys. The Redwall, colored, by the rocks above, wore in arches, caves, and scallops. Other layers became sculpted pillars, slopes, and ledges. Below all, the schist appeared, black and brown in its varied forms and sculpted shapes, sometimes tooth-like or bowl-like, often polished smooth and glistening in the sun. Through the side canyons, we could see each layer's cliffs sometimes lined up like sentinels, sometimes almost completely worn away, and often, in the distance, the north or south rim.

Bighorn sheep grazed at river's edge and cantered or walked along the steep walls. The canyon wren kept us company with its lilting, scale-descending song. Swallows swooped and skimmed the river's surface. Blue herons stood statuesquely or flew by. Peregrine falcons glided overhead. At one camp, a hummingbird tried to drink the salsa on Dave Smallwood's red plate. At another camp, a turkey with a damaged foot seemed at home among us. Lizards of several types scurried out of our way.

We saw century plants in every stage of their life cycle, huge barrel cacti, and prickly pear sometimes almost as tall as we were. There were several hikes to slot canyons, waterfalls, Anasazi ruins, and spectacular views. The food was delicious and plentiful. Evenings, we sat and talked, read, contemplated, or sang along with TJ on the guitar. The stars came out: brilliant, copious, with a well-defined Milky Way. The third week it rained and produced unexpected waterfalls and cascades off the surrounding cliffs, slots, saddles, and shelves, some wispy and clear, others gushing red with sediment. We watched one clear dribble become, in a flash, a red gusher,

and we heard small boulders clicking against each other in a shallow red flow.

Then it was over. At Diamond Creek, the Hualapai tribe came with trucks and hauled the entire expedition to our vehicles at Peach Springs. Thank you to all who went for this marvelous, multifaceted 18-day trip!



(DESOLATION/GRAY CANYONS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

top of the Wire Fence Canyon gravel fan.

On day five I proved that I could get the most stuck on a rock while going through Coal Creek Rapid. I managed to stay long enough for Steven and Rob to walk back up to see if they could help me and for Bob to dig out his rescue gear. Rob had little previous raft experience but did quite well, despite the fact that he needed to spend time adjusting the raft to fit him. Steven hadn't paddled a whitewater canoe for several years but showed that he remembered most of his past lessons well. Bob, Rob, and I kind of took turns showing each other where not to run our rafts. We actually spent little time or effort getting boats to float considering the low water.

Camp five was at the bottom of Rattlesnake Rapid. Since I don't cook but had managed to get to prepare two suppers I had elected to prepare a curry for supper the last night. I don't prepare curries but do eat them. The crib sheet said to add seasoning to taste and I was fortunate to have Chuck along as he actually knows how to cook curry and gave me a hand on seasoning so no one was injured by my cooking attempt. Low water can be enjoyable but it's more so if you have extra time.

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Contact Pat Cullen

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revised: 12/26/2001

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6 Puesta Del Sol
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KCA depends upon volunteer efforts. I am willing to help with these activities:

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Editor's Column

We are off to a great 2003! Thank you so much for all of the wonderful events and trip articles. I have a sense that there are more paddlers that are willing to share their trip experiences again. KCA is beginning to get into the spirit of writing and photography again. Due to the rare abundance of river-related articles combined with some paddlers that waited until this fall to submit all of their post trip articles, I've started a new column on the back to preview articles that will be included in future issues of the KANSAS PADDLER.

Please consider leading a trip this year. It is not difficult. It is generally a matter of selecting the days & stream that work best for you. Generally others will come along to help you with shuttles and safety. As in Mick's Safety article, there are lots of padding and safety tips for paddlers on the Web and in the KANSAS PADDLE HOME PAGE.

If you have a weekend that comes up empty and you would like to lead a

short-notice trip, just send me an email and I'll get out a notice in the KANSAS FLOAT GROUP email list. This is a large list of club and non-club members that have expressed interest in paddling. See you on a river in 2003!

Here is a list of email addresses that are consistently returned as "undeliverable". If you could take a few minutes to check these and your directory info, please send the Treasurer your updated address & email information at:
riverbob@southwind.net

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

ARTICLES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

- ♥ *Hell's Canyon 2002 - by Cliff Long*
- ♥ *Rio Chama 2002 - by Cliff Long*
- ♥ *Rogue River 2002 - by Cliff Long*
- ♥ *Reflections of an Old Kayak Dude - by Jim Johnson*
- ♥ *Kansas River is Untapped Resource - by Mike Hayden*
- ♥ *Outfitters on the Kansas River - by T.J. Hittle*
- ♥ *Wolf River, WI 2002 - by T.J. Hittle*



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