



## Dismal River.....not so dismal!

By Richard Seaton  
Keith Ratzloff - contributing writer

Richard Seaton.

The trip starts immediately with very fast water. The first half of this day's run was very winding and narrow. Our observation of the section above the Seneca Bridge was that there was a hazard, obstruction or obstacle that required negotiating every 50 or 100 feet.

Late September would not normally be a good time of year to expect a river trip in northwest Nebraska, but as it turned out it was the best of times.

The Dismal River was not too hot and not too cold with plenty of water and no bugs!

### Day One

The put in is about 60 miles north of North Platte, Nebraska, on State Highway 97. Access to the river is very steep and once down would be hard to get back up. We used ropes to rappel our boats down to a small eddy where the river forks converge. The Dismal is very narrow, fast and fun with beautiful scenery throughout. We only saw one other group of paddlers and they were staging at



[Above: Richard Seaton, Jr - kayaking a rapids on the Dismal River, NE - photo by Keith Ratzloff]

Our guess was

that there were not more than one or two 100 yards that were straight runs on the first 26 miles. The river moves quickly because at one point my deck mounted G.P.S. said I was going 12 miles per hour.

Since this river is totally undeveloped, it allowed for lots of live cattle along the riverbank. Unfortunately, one of them did not



[Above: Terry Harts - organizing gear on the Dismal River, NE - photo by Keith Ratzloff]

the Seneca Bridge campground.

Our group included KCKA touring kayak members, Terry Harts, Keith Ratzloff, and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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# KCKA Annual Meeting & Kayak Chapter Party

## Saturday, January 22nd

By Jackie Rawlings

Happy New Year! Hopefully 2005 will be a happy and productive year for you, your families, and KCKA.

The KCKA Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at our house, 700 Gillespie Drive, Manhattan, KS. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend.

Directions can be found below. The Board meeting will be at 11:00 AM with the annual meeting set for 3:00 PM. Please plan to come and stay for the annual party.

**BRING A SIDE DISH,** salad or dessert. The KCKA will

provide pizza and soft drinks. Please BYOB. We will also be having our annual elections. Nominations for KCKA President include Jim Johnson and for KCKA President-Elect, Larry Storer. Additional nominations form the floor will be solicited at the Annual Meeting prior to voting.

You may also notice in the newsletter and on the KCKA website that a Kayak Chapter Workshop has been scheduled for the following Sunday morning. The workshop has a \$29/person fee to be paid to UFM for pool time and lifeguards. The date is January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Kansas State University Natatorium. If you would like to stay



overnight in Manhattan, we have several members that have offered bed space. These are on a first-call basis. See the KCKA Trips Page or contact T.J. Hittle (785) 539-7772 for enrollment instructions and options for overnight accommodations.

In 2004, KCKA did increase its membership from 180 to 193 memberships. We are happy with that but realize we need to do more to get the members to participate in the events. Of course, the fact that there was very little water this year in Kansas may explain the lack of participation. Some people just aren't willing to drive 8-10 hours to float down a river. We did find a couple of scenic streams here in Kansas that always are floatable - the Neosho River above Council Grove Lake and Munker's Creek on the east side of Council Grove Lake. No shuttle necessary. Both are beautiful and very enjoyable.

I have really been proud to be your KCKA President for two years. I want to stay involved and will as the Past President. As I have said many times, being out on the water in a canoe, kayak or raft, has provided me with some of my happiest and most memorable moments. I will continue to try to encourage others to have that experience. Thanks to all of you who have supported me as President. Without your help, my job would have been impossible. Thank you for all you do for the organization.

Directions:

(from the East off I-70 at Exit 313)  
Take Exit 313 off I-70. Travel north on Hwy 177 to Manhattan. Bear right as you cross the Kansas River bridge and exit right.

Turn right onto Ft. Riley Blvd. Continue ~5 miles on Ft. Riley Blvd. Check your odometer to as you pass the stoplight & Holiday Inn Holidome on your right. Continue West exactly 1.0 mile past the Holiday Inn Holidome. As you reach the crest of the hill,

turn left (south) at the only intersection onto Davis drive. Turn left on Geneva. Turn left onto Gillespie Drive and continue to the last house on the right. My home-office is 700 Gillespie Dr. (785)539-7772. Look for a stone archway.

(from the West, off I-70 and Exit 303):  
Take Exit 303 off I-70 and turn north on K-18 towards Manhattan. Continue on K-18 for ~8 miles towards Manhattan. You will pass Stagg Hill Golf Course (just 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 right (south) onto Davis drive. Continue for 1/2 block and turn left (east) on Geneva Drive. Take Geneva Drive to Gillespie Drive. Turn left and immediately see the large stone archway on the right.

*"Thanks to all of you who have supported me as President. Without your help, my job would have been impossible. Thank you for all you do for the organization."*

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# Activities Calendar

"KCKA 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 KCKA Newsletter, so check it out at: [www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/](http://www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/)*

## JANUARY

**Saturday, January 22, 2005 [Meeting]** KCKA Board Meeting, Annual Meeting & Party. Board Meeting at 11:00 AM. Annual Meeting (All KCKA Members) and Party at 3:00 PM. TJ & Jackie's house in Manhattan, KS. See newsletter article.  
**Sunday, January 23, 2005 [PSA][Indoor Training]** Intermediate Kayak Chapter Workshop- KSU Natatorium, Manhattan, KS. 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. UFM Fee: \$29. Bring your own equipment. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar  
**Sunday, January 30, 2005 [PSA][Indoor Training]** Touring Kayaks: Rescue and Recoveries- KSU Natatorium, Manhattan, KS. Fundamentals of tour kayaking plus assisted and self rescue techniques. Instructor: Larry Storer of The Yellow Kayak 785-292-4561. Enroll via UFM @ 785-539-8763. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar

## FEBRUARY

**Sunday, February 6, 2005. [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I][Day Trip]** Kansas River Float, Manhattan to St. George. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold weather. RSVP Mick O'Shea, mjoss8488@yahoo.com, via e-mail for more information  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2005. [PSA][Indoor Training]** Kayaking and Basic Paddling Skills. 4 nights on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7 - 10 PM. February 15, 17, 22 & 24. WSU Pool in Wichita, KS. \$50 for all four sessions. Equipment is furnished. Instructor: Jim Johnson. Enrollment is handled by the American Red Cross (316-268-0842) in Wichita.  
**Sunday, February 20, 2005 [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I][Day Trip]** Eagle Float - Walnut River, Walnut Park to Grouse Creek. Meet 9:00 AM at Walnut Park just east of Arkansas City. RSVP: Cliff Long 316-253-9216. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar  
**Sunday, February 20, 2005 [PSA][Indoor Training]** Intermediate Kayak Chapter Workshop- KSU Natatorium, Manhattan, KS. 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. UFM Fee: \$29. Bring your own equipment. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar  
**Sunday, February 27, 2005 [PSA][Indoor Training]** Touring Kayaks: Rescue and Recoveries- KSU Natatorium, Manhattan, KS. Fundamentals of kayak touring plus assisted and self rescue techniques. Instructor: Larry Storer of The Yellow Kayak 785-292-4561. Enroll via UFM @ 785-539-8763. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar

## MARCH

**Sunday, March 13, 2005 [PSA][Indoor Training]** Touring Kayaks: Rescue and Recoveries- KSU Natatorium, Manhattan, KS. Fundamentals of kayak touring plus assisted and self rescue techniques. Instructor: Larry Storer of The Yellow Kayak 785-292-4561. Enroll via UFM @ 785-539-8763. More Details on the KCKA website, Trips/Events Calendar  
**Saturday, March 12-13, 2005 [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I-II][Base Camp]** Current River or other suitable Ozark river. 9:00 AM shuttle on Saturday, 7:00 AM shuttle on Sunday. RSVP: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 9-10, 2005 [Training - Whitewater][Class II][Base Camp]** Ozark Novice Whitewater. Whitewater equipment, clothing, some basic experience and instructor approval are required. Instructors will be on hand to teach eddy turns, surfing, rolls, etc. The Mulberry River near Ft. Smith AR is the most likely location for this training although the final decision will be based on water levels and weather. Novices should try to participate in both Ozark trips and then at least one of the Colorado novice trips. All whitewater paddlers are invited to join these trips and assist novices. RSVP: Chris Collins 316-942-4339  
**Saturday, April 23-24, 2005 [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I-II][River Camp]** Buffalo National River or suitable Ozark river. RSVP: Chris Collins 316-942-4339  
**Friday, April 29-May 1, 2005 [PSA][Training - Whitewater][Class II][Base Camp]** Arkansas Canoe Club's Whitewater School on the Mulberry River. See the Arkansas Canoe Club Website for details and enrollment.

## MAY

**Saturday, May 14-15, 2005 [Training - Whitewater][Class II][Base Camp]** Ozark Novice Whitewater. Whitewater equipment, clothing, some basic experience and instructor approval are required. Instructors will be on hand to teach eddy turns, surfing, rolls, etc. The Mulberry River near Ft. Smith AR is the most likely location for this training although the final decision will be based on water levels and weather. Novices should try to participate in both Ozark trips and then at least one of the Colorado novice trips. All whitewater paddlers are invited to join these trips and assist novices. RSVP: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

**Saturday, May 14-15, 2005 [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I][Base Camp]** Arkansas River or suitable local area water. Base camp at Goat Ranch. RSVP: Bill Cather 316-522-4749 daytime.

**Saturday, May 28-29, 2005 [Float Trip Flatwater][Class I-II][Base Camp]** Jack's Fork or other suitable Ozark river. 9:00 AM shuttle on Saturday, 7:00 AM shuttle on Sunday. RSVP: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

### 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

# KCKA 2005 = Photos & Images Contest

**Contest Purpose:** KCKA would like to recognize our many amateur and professional photographers. Photos and digital images are needed to promote paddle sports and enjoyment of nature through paddling, document pollution of some of our rivers and streams, and promote safe boating and safety training.



**Submission Deadline:** September 1, 2005  
[Details to be announced]

**Prize:** Personal gratification will be the main prize. No monetary prizes will be granted. The KCKA Board may opt to revise this section. Winners will be published in our KCKA newsletter & website with photo credits.

**Categories & Themes:** [To be determined by the KCKA Board]

**Formats for each category:** [To be determined by the KCKA Board]  
Participants must be KCKA members at the time of submission and at the time of judging. The judge or judges will be solicited from outside the KCKA membership.

## Welcome New Members

Colorado Kayak Supply- Earl Richmond- Buena Vista, CO (Associate Member)

The Yellow Kayak- Larry Storer- Frankfort, KS (Associate Member)

Dottie Thompson- Kechi, KS

Gene Bowers- Marion, KS

Bill VanSickle - Newton, KS



## A Quick Look at the KWA Chapter of the KCKA

By Shawn Tolivar

The Kansas Whitewater Association is the only organization in Kansas dedicated solely to whitewater and freestyle kayaking. We like to think of Kansas as the center of the whitewater universe - 10 hours in any direction to good whitewater. While this may be true, there are also many whitewater opportunities in our own backyard.

The Kansas River offers year round paddling with two whitewater sections in western KC metro and in Lawrence. The Wakarusa wave in Lawrence offers a



[Above: - "Dave Irvin models his new camo paddling gloves. Nicoya Helm wonders if it makes it harder for the fish to see him."  
Right: Rod Snyder & James Smith - back surf at Trading Post - photo by Shawn Tolivar



competition quality freestyle hole below Clinton Lake. The Trading Post down in South

surfing style, and there's great surfing to be had in Wichita on the Arkansas River outlet. As KCKA-KWA Chapter member you are entitled to receive our member roster, along with our newsletter and other benefits listed

Eastern Kansas offers very friendly surfs and spin practice. Rocky Ford in Manhattan below Tuttle Lake offers a variety waves and holes to suit almost any

at <http://www.kansaswhitewater.org/membership.shtml>

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fair well, forcing us to negotiate his dead carcass. Cattle incursions into the river definitely created some sanitation concerns. The waterfalls described in other trip reports we had read were not apparent, but we did encounter a nice Class II rapid with two fun drops.

The campground is about 200 yards



[Above: Keith Ratzloff scouts out the way to lower the boats down to the put-in - photo by Terry Harts]

to very fast narrows with trees on both sides. It is the most serpentine river I have ever been on. I often felt I was paddling a small meandering stream.

Jamison to Highway 83 was a wider river but still moving about 3.5 mph. First day was 14.5 miles in 6 hours, with two stops, one for lunch and once at rapids. Second day was 21.5 miles in 7 hours with two breaks. The takeout for the campground is on



[Above: Keith Ratzloff runs a rapids on the Dismal River - photo by Richard Seaton]

to be portaged. Our wildlife observed included sightings of: deer, elk, muskrat, hawks, including red tailed and goshawk, blue heron, kingfishers, several species of ducks and coyotes on both nights.

A light rain Friday evening at our take out made our camp a little wet, but not enough to dampen our spirits. A beautiful full rainbow made it the weather all worthwhile. This was followed by a 3/4 moon incredibly framed by clouds and the sand hills and trees.

It was a great two-day, 36-mile overnight trip! The Dismal River is not really a difficult trip. At the same time, it is not a beginner trip either. This is a river

river right, immediately after the county road bridge (Seneca Bridge).

Two elk fences about one mile apart were constructed to contain

with everything. There are must make moves, including several hairpin turns in fast moving water. Some sections were twisting and turning for quite a distance. The river demands your attention at all times! The take-out can be found on the river right side, upstream of old 83 Bridge and is a fairly difficult take-out. The water is fast and wants to pull you away from the bridge piling. Stay to the extreme right of right side piling. One of our paddlers had to do it four times before he got in. Barbwire across the river just past the bridge will make it interesting if you miss. Overall, the Dismal River was a great trip which we would highly recommend. In fact, the three of us intend to repeat this trip in the spring of 2005, staging our camping gear at the campground in order to minimize our load. [Editor's Note: Call Richard Seaton (see roster) if you are interested in running the Dismal River in 2005.]

from the river. It was nice enough, but not on the river. You are therefore forced to carry your gear quite a distance. They provided fire rings, porta-potty and picnic tables. Camping on the riverbank is not an option on this river. There is so little settlement in the area that the night sky is a feast of stars.

**Day Two**

We all agreed that the Saturday run from Seneca Bridge to Jamison Bridge was great fun. The river changed from beautiful pools



[Above: Terry Harts helps lower the boats down to the put-in - photo by Keith Ratzloff]

the elk in an elk ranch that you must pass through. These require a portage and a climb over a tall ladder contraption. There is an opening in the fence through which you slide your boat. About 8-10 barbed wire fences crossed the river in places. We considered these a hazard, but only one wire fence had

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# Rescues & Recoveries - a Class for Touring Kayakers

By Larry Storer - The Yellow Kayak

Man do we have class.....Rescues & Recoveries class that is. I offered several classes this past summer with a great response, so I decided to offer them in the winter through UFM. You can find a description of the class in the events section of this newsletter along with other fun upcoming events. To help make these events more enjoyable for yourself and your paddling partners, why not take some time this winter to improve your paddling skills? These classes are fun and a great break from the cold winter days ahead, as they are located in a very warm 80 degree pool.

The adjoining photos are from one of my Council Grove Lake sessions. The day turned out to be a perfect day for paddling and playing in the water but it didn't start out that way. When I got up that morning the air temp was 39 degrees, but with the promise of reaching the high 60's. The water temp was still around 60 degrees, which is none too warm, but not bad all the same. I had two students for this class session, both new to kayaking. I found out later in the day that this was their 5th anniversary. My class was their present to each other.

We started out with some on-land instruction, working through the parts of the kayak, the basic equipment and how it is used, and the mechanics behind the basic paddle strokes. The next step was to put the

students on the water and let them work with what they had just learned. Burke and Amanda were having a lot of fun gliding across the water, as



[Above: Larry Storer (right) and his students during dry land instruction.]

[Above Right: Practicing the "paddle float rescue". Right: Celebrating a successful rescue - all photos by Linda Rae, onewithgaia.com]



and you could see the confidence level rising with every new step we took. After toweling off and warming up with some hot tea, it was time to find out what kayaking can offer. We went on a cruise around the beautiful lake and checked out some of the wildlife (pelicans, ducks, and geese just to name a few). The lake

turned to glass, as the gentle breeze that we had in the morning died down and left us with pristine paddling conditions. I could not have asked for a better class session or better participants.

Please join me this winter in one of the classes that I am offering. I promise you will leave the class much more confident on the water and with much more paddling skill proficiency. If you have been through a Rescues and Recoveries class before and are ready to advance to the next level, please check out TJ Hittle's class, also offered through UFM. It is more focused on the Eskimo roll. Knowing TJ, these classes will be fun and packed with a lot of great information. Hope to see you this winter.

one can only do in a kayak. They tried out each paddling stroke and began to explore what a fun sport kayaking is. With the air temp quickly rising, it was time to break for lunch and discuss the afternoon agenda. We sat down together and enjoyed an impromptu potluck lunch. I think the fun part of teaching is getting to know your students on a more personal level.

After the lunch break, it was time to get wet. I demonstrated the wet-exit technique, the paddle float rescue technique, and the assisted rescue technique on land and then in the water. I had Burke and Amanda try it one at a time. They were both so surprised at how easy it was to get out of the kayak during a wet exit. The rescues went flawless



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# *Actions n' Captions*



*[Above: Kansas River "bend" near Wabaunsee, KS - photo by Lawrence Kansas artist, Lisa Grossman]*

*[Below: Big Piney Creek observation point - photo by Chris Collins]*



*[Right: L-R, Dotty Thompson and Steven Deyoe on the North Fork of White River - photo by Chris Collins]*



*[Above: Larry Storer and his students practicing paddling strokes during a class - photo by Linda Rae, onewithgaia.com]*



*[Above: Larry Storer practicing paddling strokes during a class - photo by Linda Rae, onewithgaia.com]*



*[Above: Chris Collins surfing on the Mulberry River, AR - photo by Steve Deyoe]*



# ***KCKA & ACA Paddle America Club - Status Report***

By Chris Collins



A year's worth of discussion and campaigning has finally culminated in a decision. On November 6, 2004 the KCKA Board met at

President Jackie's home in Manhattan. The Board decided that KCKA should move ahead to become an ACA Paddle America Club. Chris Collins volunteered to implement

the program and to be the club's liaison with ACA for 2005.

Becoming an ACA Paddle America Club would mean that KCKA, its Officers, its Board Members, its Trip Leaders and float trip Participants could be covered with liability insurance for club sponsored on-the-water activities. If any of the above-mentioned parties were to get sued then the liability insurance would provide a defense and would payoff if any of the parties were found liable.

In addition, the Board agreed that we would continue to include non-KCKA events

on our calendar as long as they are clearly identified to distance KCKA from the event. Currently these non-KCKA events are marked "[PSA]" for Public Service Message and the schedule includes a definition for the mark.

Current Status: As of mid-December 2004 the implementation is on hold until ACA can either find another insurance carrier or cut a new deal with the current one. They are not currently covering any new trips.

## ***Fall Rendezvous - a 2004 Trip Report***

By Cliff Long

Apparently some of our less than stalwart paddlers were too intimidated by the lack of water in the Arkansas River and opted not to attend the Fall Rendezvous. Those that came were treated to a campfire with river tales into the wee hours Friday night.

Saturday, we managed to get a small group of paddlers together at the Wichita Boathouse for some games, a little practice paddling, and a paddle up the river (and back). KCKA provided the meat for supper, which was augmented by the usual selection of wonderful potluck dishes. After supper, it was back to the campfire for stories and music. Our evening pickers and singers were Roger Norton, Jim Weaver, and Jim Johnson. It was surprising how many more people

showed up in the evening than came out to paddle.

Sunday, a few good paddlers (Charles Benjamin, Chris Collins, Lyle Kaufmann, Cliff Long, and Jim Weaver) drove over to El Dorado Lake to explore the Walnut River above the reservoir. We paddled up stream as far as we could go, then slid under a downed tree, and went as far as possible. Here, we portaged around a log jam, pulled over some accumulated limbs, and went to the end again. This time we decided it was time to call it the end.

A special thank you to Bill Cather for providing the place for the Rendezvous as well as all the work he put into preparation. Thanks also to Frank Akerman and Lyle Kaufmann for all the work they put into preparations.



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# *Blackwater rivers - an excerpt*

By Elizabeth Dodd - Dept. English,  
Kansas State University

Blackwater rivers are filled with tannins, dark as tea if you scoop your hands full and lift the water into the sunlight, dark as coffee if you gaze down at their still, backwater coves and watch where bald cypress and tupelo cast their reflections across the surface, doubling the imagery of tree and leaf. They are filled with dead plant matter, as if they were southern rivers dreaming of northern bogs, as if current and motion longed to just stop, to lie down and gaze at the sky. In our rented canoe, my friend John and I push away from the bank and head downstream on the Black River, beginning a twelve-mile stretch of what's reputed to be one of the most beautiful places for paddling in North Carolina.

A few miles downstream are ancient bald cypress trees—one in particular is 1700 years old—and the only way to reach them is by water, since there's no road through the wild wetlands that surround them. The day is clear and bright after yesterday's rain, and doubly lovely since rain is forecast to return again tomorrow. In this October window of sunny weather, we float on a calm, dark current, watching each bend in the river. At lunchtime, we exclaim to one another that we must have arrived; a sentinel tree stands straight and very tall, though diagnostically flat-topped, where the river swings back into a thicket of cypress knees, poison-ivy covered stumps, and, even farther, hummocks of tupelo and flotillas of arrow-shaped weeds. John sits in the boat and eats an apple and almonds while I clamber over the

buttressed base of the tree, wrapping a nylon rope around it to record "diameter at breast height" and watching nervously for snakes. I tie a knot to denote the tree's girth, and then wrap it neatly from elbow to thumb, counting lengths of my forearm: fourteen. At home, with measuring tape, I'll translate this to just over 16 feet.

I don't know how to read this landscape, even less than I know how to transcribe our physical experience of the river's course against the visual map, encased in plastic, which we pass back and forth in the boat. The mild, autumn day feels deeply exotic, sensual with riparian otherness. Then the landscape changes, and these qualities intensify as we realize that only now are we entering the heart of the swamp, an area called in a paddler's guide "The Narrows." Here the river sheets out in shallows that slip past and among the ancient trees, dozens of them, one broken, hollowed trunk after another.

We watch carefully for tiny yellow flags tied near eye height that mark the navigable passage through The Narrows. These are faded strips of surveyor's tape, almost the same color and shape as the plumes of Spanish moss that dangle from the outstretched limbs above the water, so they seem to disappear at every turn, and it is easy to imagine being lost in such a wilderness. Over millennia, the likelihood that some major hurricane will sweep through and ravage the canopy is clear: you need only look up to see that nearly every ancient tree is marked by destruction: empty holes where branches once reached out their horizontal arms; gothic archways at the water's surface where the buttressed roots have rotted out to bare the cavity to the

current; snapped trunks that stand wholly open on one side, as if presenting a doorway to some passage just out of sight.

Once out of The Narrows, we're back in the river, a real channel that suggests linearity, direction, the physical image of the journey in, or out. Young tupelo shades palmetto along the bank; once, from a shaded, sheltered bend, wood ducks startle up from the water and head noisily elsewhere. A kingfisher scolds from up ahead.

Suddenly, before I have any idea what has happened, the boat has tipped and we're both in water over our heads, gasping at one another while we travel downstream with surprising speed. But the boat seems to right itself, though it's full of water, and I check it for backpack, dry bag, water bottles, while John treads water in the river, waiting for one of the paddles to float toward him, and then comes ashore. Are we all right? We are. It's cold, but manageable. Did we lose anything? One of the maps, still in a zip-lock bag, has floated away, and the rope has sunk to the bottom with its record of the five circumferences I marked with knots. I have only the memory of fourteen forearms' length for the mother-leviathan, a few miles upstream.

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*Elizabeth Dodd is professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Kansas State University. Her most recent book is PROSPECT: JOURNEYS & LANDSCAPES (University of Utah Press, 2003). "Black River" is an excerpt from a longer essay called "The Scribe in the Woods," which she plans to include in her next book, a series of meditations about landscapes from throughout human history.*

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## *Kayaking the Inside Passage = a book review*

By Bob Sinnett

Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage (1996) by Byron Ricks. \$13.50. 384p. New York: Avon (paper).

The author is described as "an outdoor leader" and his wife and paddling partner, Maren Van Nostrand, "an outdoor educator and environmental planner". Together, they spent five months on this adventurous journey, and they offer the reader shared feelings, experiences, and observations on the history, geography, and anthropology of the fauna and flora and personae of this region. The rich flavor of their remarks is captured in quotes: "The tidal cycle has become intuitive, internal... as

if the two-thirds of us that is water also bears a tide".

Of a native village: "Maren envisions how the community must have lived here, the fires smoking, calls ricocheting among the canoes, a family house on every beach and bay". "The beauty of the canoe is that it's something that ties our whole community together (seven tribes listed)... It's a common heritage". "We have shaken the habit of our other lives, the arbitrary clockwork of society, and now live with the tides, with light and darkness".

Of other transport: "Many of the boats... carry an attitude..., an isolation, a withdrawal and aloofness... with the power of their engines and bulk of their craft, they some-

how can control the sea". Both boats, recreational and commercial fishing, appeared more of a threat than the bears or Orcas. "It seems that this is what the Inside Passage has long been: a tapestry of homes and homelands interwoven with this grand inland sea".

Environmental concerns about pollution and exploitation without regard to consequences, such as with clearcutting were offered. For me I had associations of blue glaciers calving near St. Petersburg, paddling there with the tides, the Haida totem poles of the Carolinas and an inland passage cruise of this marvelous Northwest. I must return to this wilderness beauty life sometime!

# Spring 2005 ACA Canoe & Rescue Classes



**American Canoe Association (ACA) Essentials of River Canoeing- Sat. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005.** Time 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This class covers the basics of paddling a canoe on the river and includes class I rapids. It is designed for the person who has little or no paddling experience. The location of this class will be in or near Manhattan and participants will be informed of the location by email at the end of Feb. We will cover safety, equipment, trip planning, basic paddle strokes, some simple maneuvers, and finally information on local and national paddling organizations. We will spend 50% of class time on the

water.

**Kansas Canoe/Kayak Association (KCKA) Paddle Strokes Review - Sun. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005.** Time 9:00 a.m.-noon. For those with some formal canoe instruction. The goal will be to review basic canoe strokes and to make them graceful and efficient.

**Kansas Canoe/Kayak Association Basic River Rescue – Sun. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005.** Time 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The purpose of this workshop is to look at basic river rescue skills with an emphasis on prevention. We will be using equipment that the paddler normally carries with them (throw rope, carabiners, possibly pulleys) along with basic river knowledge (mostly common sense).

**ACA Whitewater Canoe – by appointment.** Provides preparation to paddle comfortably class II whitewater, length is two days. Prerequisite-ACA Essentials of River canoe course. Please contact me if you're interested in this class (mjos8488@yahoo.com).

**FOR ALL CLASSES:** Enrollment is limited to ten persons and all participants must be 14 years of age or older. Bring a lunch, water, sunscreen and clothing appropriate to weather conditions (sun hat or rain jacket etc). Although immersion activities are not planned you never know what might happen so come dressed to get wet just in case and bring a change of clothes. If you need equipment (canoes, paddles, PFD etc) you can find information on rental at the KCKA website: [http://www.tfsksu.net/~tjhittle/ks\\_rent.htm](http://www.tfsksu.net/~tjhittle/ks_rent.htm) or you can e-mail me for help. All participants must wear a PFD that is fully buckled up at all times while on or in the water. Participants who attend all parts of the ACA class will receive an ACA card of participation.

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the classes you will take:

ACA Essentials of River Canoeing – Sat. Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \$25 (includes text)  
KCKA Paddle Strokes Review-(morning) Sun. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \$10 (includes handout)  
KCKA Basic River Rescue – (afternoon) Sun. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 \$10 (includes handout)  
ACA Whitewater Canoe – by appointment (2 days) \$30 (includes handout)

Will you be paddling solo or tandem? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association? Yes No (Circle one)

If you are not a member add \$10 to your total.

Total enclosed (make check payable to Kansas Canoe Association): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note that class cost does not include equipment.

You will be mailed a liability waiver (for KCKA and for ACA). This must be signed and returned before you can participate in these classes.

Return to: Mick O'Shea, 604 Bertrand St, Manhattan, KS 66502. [MJOS8488@yahoo.com](mailto:MJOS8488@yahoo.com)

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# Fall Novice Whitewater Trip on the North Fork River - a 2004 Trip Report

By Chris Collins - KCKA Marketing Chr.

As I recall about eight paddlers signed up to help with this clinic and to enjoy a great weekend of paddling and camping in the Ozarks. Actually Steven Deyoe, Dotty Thompson and I were the only ones that participated. Dotty was our newest KCKA member at the time and our only novice. It was pouring down rain when we arrived. We were all in the same vehicle and we were without a shuttle.

Most of the whitewater rivers in the Ozarks were too low to be usable for training. We decided to fall back on the North Fork of the White River because it is mostly spring fed and almost always has water suitable for learning eddy turns and ferry moves. It is a very beautiful river and always a joy to paddle. I watched the weather and radar until our departure Friday morning. I was not sure if it would still be raining when we arrived, but I was pretty sure the weekend would be acceptable. After all, if we are dressed for a cold-water swim, we should be able to handle a little rain or drizzle.

Around midnight on Friday, the moon and stars replaced the rain clouds and the terrestrial radiation was accelerated. Terrestrial radiation is the term used to describe the Earth's heat being radiated into space. If the sky is clear, the temperature drops all night until the sun rises high enough to begin heating the Earth's surface. The warm surface then heats the air. An overcast sky will act like a blanket to reduce the temperature loss due to radiation. If I remember correctly, the temperature dropped to 33 F Saturday morning and 32 F on Sunday morning. Nothing actually froze except us.

On the way, we stopped in Springfield to visit Ozark Adventures, one of our long time business members. They are less than a quarter mile off Highway 60 as you go around the south part of Springfield. There were a few items we wanted but could not find locally before we left. I walked in with a copy of the Kansas Paddler and greeted the owner. He smiled from ear to ear and was very anxious to help us. We all found a few things we could not do without. Dotty found a helmet that fit so she would not have to wear her biking helmet. Our business members do appreciate knowing that you see their advertisements in our newsletter.

I was concerned about Steven and Dotty having to pitch their tents in the rain. It was of little consequence to me because my van was my tent and my bed was already made. We finally maneuvered through Ozark hills and the rain-induced fog to arrive at Riverside Canoe, which is just downstream from Patrick Bridge. We got there early enough to raise the owners and arrange for a Saturday morning shuttle. Steven and Dotty pitched their tents under a picnic shelter located about 75 yards from a bathroom with flush toilets and hot showers. It worked perfectly. Their gear never got wet.

Steven and I had borrowed and scrounged enough clothing, spray skirt and a whitewater paddle to provide Dotty with a warm and enjoyable experience. We were all three pleased to say that it worked. I believe Dotty had a great time and she has agreed to

paddle with us at least 26 weekends during 2005. She will spend the remaining 26 weekends biking around or across Kansas. Steven and Dotty work together at a local medical facility where people receive help in the form of tiny springs and/or balloons being inserted in their veins. That can't be technically correct but I am sure you get the idea. I first met Dotty at Mountain High, another one of our long time business members, several days before our trip. She was swapping out a defective boat for a new one and I helped her move up to a Perception Enduro.

Dotty had just finished Jim Johnson's Red Cross kayak class and was ready for some basic training in moving water. On Saturday we took our gear to Hammond Mill Access. I drove the van to the Blair Bridge Public Access where I met Allen Maxey, the owner of Riverside Canoe Rental. He shuttled me back to Hammond Mill and provided entertaining conversation on the way. The water was about 60 F so we had to stay protected in case of a swim. I was especially concerned about Dotty because a bad experience like a cold swim could cause her to lose interest in future trips. We decided to use Saturday for a float trip and let Dotty get used to her new boat since this was its maiden voyage. She did great.

Sunday morning we put in at Twin Bridges at 9:20 AM and took out at Hammond Mill Access. Again, Allen Maxey shuttled me back to the put-in. By the way, we were unable to contact anyone at Twin Bridges to pay the access fee. A sign in the window indicated that the place was for sale. The Twin Bridges run is my favorite. I had run it once before with Cliff Long. The stream is much narrower and a little more remote. We found many more strainers and obstacles that created eddies. Again, Dotty did great. By the end of the run, she was beginning to get the hang of eddy turns and she never took a swim. The Twin Bridges run was 5.11 miles by the trip meter on my GPS and it lasted 1.8 hours. This included the time we spent playing in every eddy we could find. Our gear was loaded and we were on our way back to Wichita by noon.

I think Dotty is now ready for training on the Mulberry or an equivalent stream in the spring. On the way out, we scouted the Hebron Access located a few miles upstream from the Twin Bridges Access. We will have to catch it after a nice rain or sometime when the more popular sections are too high.

Come play with us in the spring!



## KCKA Accessories Kayak Chapter Videos

*T-Shirts - KCKA Decals - Ball Caps - Bumper Stickers  
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**Contact Belinda Cullen - 6419 SE Stubbs Road**

**Berryton, KS 66409 / 785-379-9916 / email: [pcullen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pcullen@sbcglobal.net)**

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



# KCKA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

[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
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$65.00 Associate/Business Membership  
(w/a KCKA Newsletter ad & KCKA Website ad)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Life Membership  
(does not include chapter dues)
- \_\_\_\_\_ My additional contribution to KCKA Conservation-Access Program

**OPTIONAL CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Kayak Chapter
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Kansas Whitewater Association Chapter

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL OF ALL FEES**

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

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

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

- From a friend who boats
- Another KCKA Member: \_\_\_\_\_
- KANSAS PADDLER Home Page
- Information at a business (name): \_\_\_\_\_
- Article in News Media \_\_\_\_\_
- A KCKA activity booth
- Other/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

KCKA 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
- Website

## General Waiver & Liability Release

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF DANGER INHERENT IN BOATING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF KANSAS CANOE & KAYAK ASSOCIATION (KCKA), 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 KCKA, TRIP COORDINATORS, OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF KCKA, 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 KCKA 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.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Whom to Notify in Emergency \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Address & Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature(s) X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent/Guardian (required if under 21) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address & Phone of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: 09/21/04

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

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



# KCKA Member Paddling/Camping Equipment For Sale

**Camping Gear - Cooking Pots** - Coleman Exponent lightweight solo cook kit that includes a 1 quart stainless steel pot and other items. \$10. Chris Collins 316-942-4339.

**Wave Sport Z.** Whitewater boat for larger paddlers. Bomber backband. \$300. Gary Feist 620-842-3129 daytime.

**Perception/Harmony (neoprene) kayak spray skirt (XL)** – used 4X; \$40 call T.J. Hittle (785)539-7772 or email, see roster.

**DB Designs N6 WW Kayak Paddle**, 198cm (right hand) – excellent condition; \$40, call T.J. Hittle (785)539-7772 or email, see roster.

**2003 Perception Illusion 14 foot Sit-on-Top Kayak.** Bow and stern storage access and self-bailing foot wells. Accessory seat/backrest and paddle, are included. Yellow. \$500. Chris Collins 316-942-4339.

**2001 Dagger Magellan 16.5 foot Touring Kayak / Sea Kayak with Rudder.** Purchased new from dealer in October 2003. Used about a dozen times. Hull shows minor wear. Bow and stern sealed hatch. Includes both original and accessory backrest, and unused original seat cushion plus paperwork. Currently has a Perception/Immersion Research backband installed. Includes accessory thigh brace or deduct \$50. \$800. Chris Collins 316-942-4339.

**Perception ARC Whitewater Kayak.** Approx. 9 foot. This was one of the first kayakers with a flat bottom made for surfing. Can be used to run rivers, front surf or side surf. Easy to roll. At one time the ARC was very popular but today they are very hard to find. This kayak will fit larger people such as 230 pounds or so. Hip padding will accommodate smaller waists. Choose either one of two boats. Yellow bow fade to Red stern. \$275. Chris Collins 316-942-4339.

**17 Foot 3 Seat Coleman Canoe.** Includes 3 seats, 3 accessory backrests, 2 aluminum "T" handle paddles and foam blocks to carry on car top. \$350. Chris Collins 316-942-4339.

**Perception 3D 8'2" Whitewater Kayak.** Firecracker / Purple Haze. For a 120-240 pound paddler. \$325. Sale or trade. David Cobb, Rose Hill, KS 316-772-3527. Email available on request.

**New Perception Backband** with ratchet adjusters, made by Immersion Research. Should fit most modern Dagger and Perception kayakers and others. Requires a small slots on the backsides of the seat towers and in the cockpit combing. Slots are easy to make. See newer Perception kayakers or Chris Collins for an example. Ratchet adjusters are used to tighten backband against back. One-inch webbing straps attach to cockpit combing and hold the vertical and horizontal position. \$25 plus shipping via Priority Mail. A quantity/dealer discount is available. 20% discount for KCKA members. Contact: Dagmar Theodore 864-915-5053. wytewtr88@yahoo.com

**Dagger Blackwater 10.5 Blue.** Paddle & PFD. Almost new. Used 20 minutes. \$650. Gil Adams 316-655-8474.

**1973 Aluminum Oachita Canoe 17 foot.** Contact Cliff Long 7 – 9 PM, M-F, (316-253-9216). \$250.

**Sawyer wood paddles (3)** New, assorted sizes and styles individually priced. Contact Cliff Long 7 – 9 PM, M-F, (316-253-9216).

## NEXT ISSUE

Winter Mulberry River- 2004 Trip Report - By Jim Johnson  
North Fork River - 2004 Trip Report - By Cliff Long  
Fall Mulberry River Trip - 2004 Trip Report - By Chris Collins



## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:**

**Spring - March 15th**

**Summer - June 1st**

**Fall - September 1st**

**Winter - December 15th**



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