

THE KANSAS PADDLER

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Kayak Chapter Director

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

Newsletter Editor

Steven Deyoe - Wichita, KS
316-393-1762 / onehomer@yahoo.com

At-Large

Bob Harris, Hutchinson, KS
620.662.0346. robert.harris@cox.net.

[KANSAS PADDLER HOME PAGE](http://www.kansas.net/~tjhittle)

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In this Issue:

KCKA board members discuss and vote on keeping insurance through 2006. See page 11 for details and outcome of vote.

Water parks are coming to the area. Two water parks are being planned and gearing up for construction and operation. See page 8 for details.

Many opportunities for practice and paddling information are coming up soon. See page 10 for details of locations and times.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Spring - **March 15th**

Summer - **June 1st**

Fall - **September 1st**

Winter - **December 15th**

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My 1st year in KCKA

By Tim Stoecklein

My first experience with creeking was when I was probably seven or eight years old, and it was like nothing most of you have ever experienced. Now some of you are wondering why a kid that age was creeking, and others are stacking together their list of paddle destinations ready to rebut the last part of that statement. Well, let me give you some insight into what creeking was for a kid living on the farm in Western Kansas. The watercraft was an old rectangular, fiberglass Loomix tank. My dad took that 4x8 ft tank, fashioned some seats onto it, bought some paddles at the local sporting goods store, and we had watercraft like nothing many have ever seen. We spent many hours on local creeks floating, setting trot lines, and generally trying to keep from capsizing to become turtle bait. It was a far cry from anything deemed "sea worthy", but it was my first brush with paddle sports. I can certainly tell you some hair-raising stories!

I picked up a whitewater kayak while I was in Michigan though I wasn't really sure how to put it to use. I spent plenty of time trying to learn the intricacies that come with such a boat like trying to stay upright!! I couldn't figure out why it kept spinning in circles, and I certainly had no idea how to roll back up if I flipped over.

When I found my way back to the land of "Oz", I started looking for local resources for increasing my knowledge in paddling. I stumbled across the Kansas Paddler site on the internet, and was I ever stoked to see that there were others in the flat lands that were paddling! When I found out

this same group put on clinics at the pool here on campus I couldn't wait to get signed up. I thought surely there would be four or five people that might be willing to help an aspiring paddler. What I found was one of the BEST groups of people a "newbie" could ask for!

I came home after that first pool session and couldn't stop telling my wife about all the wonderful people I had met, and that they actually had a club called the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association! We filled out the membership form that

afternoon and mailed it away. That \$15 is probably the best money I've ever spent on a membership!! In the last year, our first as a part of the KCKA, it has given us a great number of opportunities to meet and paddle with so many people from various backgrounds. From the moment I stepped foot in the Natatorium for that first clinic I haven't stopped learning from everyone I've come in contact with in the last year.

From the numerous local trips to various waters and the sessions at Rocky Ford to the novice trip to Colorado this past summer, it is a far cry from the little boy paddling the Loomix tank on the Walnut Creek in Western Kansas. Our experience being part of the KCKA for the past year has been unbelievable!! The group is composed of a great number of outstanding ambassadors for the paddle sports. I look forward to being a member of the group for many years bringing eager new paddlers into the sport in the same way the KCKA has embraced my wife and myself. See you in the pool, on the lake, and on the river! Thanks for making the group what it is today!



[Above L-R): Tim Stoecklein (student) & Roger Norton (Instructor) at the January 2005 Intermediate Kayak Chapter Workshop - photo by TJ Hittle]

Trip Reports

Grand Canyon – a combined trip with KCKA and MWA members

By Chuck McHenry

The grand canyon is... rare, for there is no other Grand Canyon- and I really don't care that a canyon on Mars dwarfs it, or that copper canyon in Mexico is deeper, or there are canyons in Tibet which are bounded by higher peaks. The Grand Canyon is, for want of a better word... Grandest. But the jewel is deep within. If you sit on the same exact spot, at river's edge, deep in the canyon, and watch as the day goes by, you will see an infinite progression of canyons, each dictated by time of day, clouds, the interplay of light and shadow, and the movements of its creatures. At any given moment you are witnessing the rarest of the rare-scenes that will never be replayed again- ever! The collared lizard moves- just so, leaves his tracks- just so. The wind rustles leaves in a pattern you will never see again. The cloud makes shadows that interplay on rock and water; the sun's rays bouncing here and there- just so. Little wasps dig frantically in the sand, butterflies flit about a moist area in a canyon floor, hummingbirds go zooming by, crows land and seek their treasures... all just so. If you find a ledge or a spot by the river and close your eyes for 20 minutes, when you open them you are in a world very much changed, so much would take a lifetime

I have read that reached the new see them way out in not looking for them, shaman, familiar with noticed that there and he started look-disturbance, and thus pointed out, everyone was discovered!

So what do we worries me how programmed brain is sanity. I would like to weeks alone in the seeking revelations. men go out into the wild and wisdom? (I found nately, even less wis- occur. After many days,

'thinking' we do in our brain with language, as if we are really speaking to someone, ceases and I started thinking without language. Didn't need it anymore, too much useless data! I started noticing things that would be important to my present situation, the tiny dot, dot, dot tracks of scorpions, the circular pits rattlesnakes made when they bedded down for the night by the water hole where I also got my water, the funny little burrows tarantulas make, the scat of mice, etc.. I suddenly started finding the marks the Mexican miners, the Peraltas, made on the rocks, tiny white crosses, zigzags, the clues to their mine's location. I started seeing which formations were man-made, and which were natural. Tracks became eminently visible, as well as the stories they told- rabbits, cats... big cats! Bewary!... birds and javelinas. It had been there; all around me from the very start, but it took a few days to program my awareness to see it. Once programmed, I was able to notice all these things simply while walking, without any effort. By the same token, when you finally habituate yourself to an environment you also learn to instantly see what is out of place and shouldn't be there, or to freeze the whole scene, reducing



Back Row L-R: (Standing) Tom Covert, RJ Stephenson; Middle Row L-R: Brenda Covert, Dave Murphy, Bob Harris, Nancy Seamons, TJ Hittle, Dave Smallwood; Front Row L-R: Chris Goodwin, Jackie Rawlings, Bob Coltharp, John Foster, Diane Duncil, Chuck McHenry; NOTE: Chuck & Diane - just announced their wedding to be held February 14th in Las Vegas

change in 20 minutes that it to categorize it. when Columbus's ships world, the Indians did not the bay, because they were not expecting them. A Caribbean wave patterns on the shore was a wave disturbance ing for the cause of the saw the ships. Once saw them, and Columbus

SEE while in the canyon? It much, and what, my un-ignoring for the sake of take it all in. I have spent desert seeking gold, but also After all, don't many wise dernes seeking answers only a little gold, and unfortun- dom). But changes did the internal dialogue- that

(Cont. on page 4)

the incoming data so as to watch for subtle movement. For instance, how many bighorn sheep do we pass by without seeing, they are there, out in the open, easily visible, but our brains just don't register? Someone points them out, and there they are, for all to see! And from then on, we are better at seeing bighorn sheep. Thus you see a crow's nest, high on the cliff, or the tiny dot of a condor flying high, or the eye movement of a predator buried in the sand, or the man-made pile of rocks on the canyon wall, or little blurbs of deer moving far away.

I have had the good fortune to meet and camp with old prospectors in the superstitions, who taught me much about the desert... to break a leaf stem off the sacred datura and touch the drop of sap that accumulates to your tongue for strength and thirst relief. That arattlesnake rarely envenoms during a defensive strike (my only consolation when I got bit 2 days from even a dirt road and crawled into the shade alone and scared, to possibly meet my maker.) They have told me wonderful stories.

So too I have had the good fortune to camp in the grand canyon desert with Gordo, who knows the sky like the back of his hand and taught me many constellations and sky revelations. I have heard the master impresario, T.J. play guitar. I have heard Nancy Seamons talk about Utah and all her adventures there. Dan Frisch is up every morning, long before the rest of us, scrambling up cliffs and training his special eye on pictures we will treasure. Phil Harris who has hiked the canyon many times and knows all the trails. Eric Rausch who's knowledge of the desert and geology makes it unnecessary to bring along any identification books. I have shared a tent with Di. I have marveled how to be good natured at all times by the example Wahoo and Chris and Suzie Goodwin make. Di's parents, Jan and Leroy Bruns, dare I say the oldest in our gang, are top notch hikers, and leave some of us in the dust. Leroy climbs a hiker like it's a walk in the park. We can only hope to follow their

example. I have met nothing but privileged to participate on Tracey, particularly Eric Thomas, Dave Murphy, T.J. Falls, Vulcan's throne, the Cave, thunder river, and in. They say that when you you either come out mortal been a huge trade-off of my greatest disappointment was that people I had friends... were not. They were gone. They have been friends I have made since,



[Above) KCKA group silhouette in Redwall Cavern - photo by T.J. Hittle]

The night sky in the canyon is as close to unadulterated as you get in this world nowadays. There is little light pollution from man. To the North is the deserted Northern Arizona Escondido and to the south, bare desert. Lying on my back, lost in the swirl and sweep of the sky, it is easy for me to imagine that I have been there before. Infinite lifetimes in an infinite universe. All of us moving, orbiting, and revolving, at fantastic speeds! Which way do I walk to add to all this forward momentum, which way to slow down? We are on the outer arm of our own galactic merry-go-round and at any moment I like to think the "whip" is ready to crack and send us off careening into new adventures. And I will laughingly just hold on to this big globe stuck to my back and enjoy the ride!

The Collared lizard, six inches long, id'ed down to genus and species by Eric does his push-ups on the hot desert floor. We laugh, for most of us males think he's showing us how tough he is, and that it's his territory. Perhaps he's trying to impress a female. Others say he is regulating his heat. In truth he is gauging distance by the parallax. Thank god there are millions of these bug-eating guys in the canyon. We can touch them, follow them nose to the ground, and feed them a crippled fly. If there were only 2 or 3 they'd be protected behind bars and we would not be allowed to visit with them. . There is no "Collared Lizard Coalition" to protect them from us! Nevertheless, this fellow, eyeing me, head cocked, is rare, I will never see him again and I recognize him for the

cliff face to save a strayed and stranded park. We can only hope to follow their

friends in the canyon. I have been epic hikes with Di, John Foster, Eric and Tracey, Nancy Seamons, Jim and my son, Loren. I have seen Havasu esplanade, the mysterious Tapeat's Canyons that we just made our own trail spend 20 days in the canyon with people enemies, or lifelong friends. There has been personnel in that time of my life. One of my greatest disappointments stemming from my divorce, known for years and I thought I would go with the house and lake, and be replaced by the more than 30 canyon and I am that much better for it.

beautiful packet of lifeenergy that he is. Hehas divinity. Infact, thereis divinityin everythingaround me, even rocksand trees, even the old serape that has been with me for 40years. It is the pantheistic religion I was born with, it is the gift given to me at birth, the child's wide eyed, imaginative mysticism, and it makes no sense for me to give it up. Am I going to allow a few old stodgy, dried up, theologians, impose their belief on me and take this gift away from me? Am I going to listen to those who would ridicule the very idea? Nope, no way, especially in this canyon!

John Foster, Di, Dave Murphy and I are doing the epic hike. We have gone up to thunder river to see the hydrant, the verdant luxury of water coming right out the side of a cliff in the high desert, to instantly make a series of beautiful waterfalls, and a river. We head back down trail but when we get to the Tapeat's Cr-thunder river junction, we turn left and go up Tapeat's Canyon. The trail is extremely rough with many crossings of the creek, and scary ledges with loose rock. We come to a water slide, that empties into a deep pool. We normally take water for granted in our lives; but in the desert, water is sacred, and this pool is our temple! Off come boots and shirts and we worship for a half hour, soaking in the cool refreshing water, sliding down the smooth worn creek bottom and then freefalling into the pool. It invigorates us, gives us strength, and we are spurred to hike on and up.

When we finally make the spring at the source of Tapeat's we are disappointed to not find the "lake" in Tapeat's cave. Alone, I hike on up until I reach the bare red rock wall of the upper N. Rim. I stand in a huge bowl gouged out by the waterspout that must surely spill over the edge hundreds of feet above me when it rains. The hydrological violence that has occurred here still is present, like a left-behind aura, and I cannot shake a certain nervousness and fear at standing in the bottom of the bowl. Little sounds I make echo in the bowl, otherwise there is not a single sign of life. It is eerie and uncomfortable, almost depressing, charged with the negative, and I hike to the bowl's rim and look deep down into the canyon we have just come up. Di and I will do a side hike, John F will go on ahead, Dave will leave a light for us on the trail, I think a gallant gesture as he has no way to be certain we will see it, and bring it back; and sure enough we come in much after dark... ..much to everyone's displeasure!

So I pass canyons on the river that we just don't have time to stop and explore, Nautilus Canyon, Crystal Canyon, Upper Havasau, etc., etc. and each one beckons to me, like the siren. I am missing something that I should see! Why can't we stop?!? I let my boat turn and face the canyon as I drift by, watching it slowly disappear, shackled in my boat by time constraints, I drift down river. By god, next time I'm going in that canyon, even if I have to abandon the group and paddle like hell to catch up... .And even now I hear their songs. I hear the wind whistling in canyons I did not explore, I hear river noises echoing back from unseen recesses I did not see, and even now I scheme and think about how I can get back there and explore.

Talk to Us.



Want to see your pictures or article in a upcoming newsletter? Want to provide more information about your favorite location or idea that our club should be aware of? Send me that information and I'll try to include it in one of our newsletters so that all our KCKA members have access to it.

Steven Deyoe-Newsletter Editor
(onehomer@yahoo.com)

The Pathfinder

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Dolores River, 2005
By Cliff Long

After announcing that the Dolores River would not only have a release season, but a long one, Bob Krenz and I went to test the waters. We found that the long season wasn't as long as announced. We decided that there was still enough water below Gateway, Colorado but were slightly intimidated by the length and reputation of State Line Rapid (class IV) and the fact that there were only two of us.

After some discussion we decided that since we were already there and had a permit we should scout State Line Rapid since we could drive there before committing to the run. The rapid is nearly a mile long and in many places it can be approached within about a quarter mile by vehicle so it took a good deal of time to scout. We decided that there was only one must make move at the top of the rapid at the water level we had. On the way back to the vehicle we saw a black bear cub running along near us. Seeing the cub in flight made us keep a sharp eye out for mama bear. We were in luck, no mama bear.

The next day as we prepared to launch another group pulled in and started setting up. At least we would have a rescue team following us down the river, a long even though it might be wait since they planned to take three days instead of our two. We bid Eddy Beard, our shuttle driver, goodbye as we started down the stream and she started to take out. The other group to their the way an

The warm up rapid on to State Line Rapid is irrigation weir (class a curve to the weir that allow one to view the to scout it either from or from a raft ap- the only apparent slot



team river, a long planned instead of Beard, goodbye stream shuttle take out. the way an III). It has doesn't left side the shore proaching to run it.

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The drop is only about three feet but the slot is barely wide enough for a raft to run with the oars shipped so it takes a bit of faith.

At State Line we pulled out on the right to scout the rapid again. As we scouted and found our marks to run the rapid it started to rain.

Bob started his run with me about 50 feet behind. Just as Bob was passing the top mark Utah sent us a blast of wind (about 40 mph). The rain picked up and was coming across us horizontally. Bob was blown off course and bumped over the rocks to a point where he could eddy out. I wasn't so lucky and was blown onto a gravel bar and into some willows. Instead of fighting the wind and the current I decided to stay put and wait for better conditions. Bob hiked back up to check on me with throwbag in hand (about half long enough to reach me). I indicated that I was all right so we waited.

When the wind dropped about 50 percent I pushed off and bumped across the rocks to join Bob. We stood under the tamarisk and waited for the rain to taper off.

As the rain stopped we headed on down the right channel. After completing the rapid we walked up the left (descending) bank to see why the guide says not to run it and decided that maybe a good kayaker could run it but not a raft, too many rocks.

On downstream we rather casually ran Beaver Creek Rapid (class III) watching that we didn't wrap on the rocks. We relaxed and started looking for a campsite. About two blocks below the rapid I spotted monster rocks (about garage size) in the channel. As I approached the rocks two things became apparent, there was no visible path through and somebody had kindly left a raft wrapped around the first rock to show us how difficult the passage was.

Since there was no handy gravel bar and I didn't want to contribute another raft as a warning I rowed as hard as I could into the willows and jumped off to keep the raft there. Bob followed suit and we crashed through the trees to scout for a path. We came to the unanimous decision that there was no clean path through. We went back to the rafts and pulled them back upstream a hundred feet or so while wading in crotch deep water. When we got the second raft up we rowed out and went for our marks. With a little bit of pinball action we both made it safely through.

After spending a night on the river we cruised on down to meet Eddy at Dewey, Utah on the Colo-



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Wakarusa Updates - By Kevin Burke (Kanas Whitewater Association)

This spring, a small group of us are working on perhaps one of the most ambitious club project so far. The project has been dubbed the "Waka Project" and currently involves turning our beloved Waka wave into not only a more accessible location but also a likely be completed sooner, is who have been down the like after a good rain. With the switchback trail that will pro-erosion. The second part of the Currently we are still looking changing the slope of the wave wave needs somewhere be with changes to the wave it and up. Although, this part organizations such as the successful in modifying the neers there and our preli- mitive. Our full presenta- Irwin and myself, occurred have the go-ahead for the trail developments by that time.



Above) Wakarusa "wave" below Clinton Lake near Lawrence, KS. This is one of the best areas for whitewater playboating in Kansas.

better wave. First, and the part that will most improving the acces to the wave. For those death slide put-in on the waka know what its help of Dave Irwin, we are hoping to make a vide better, safer access and reduce the project involves actually modifying the wave. at different possibilities, but it will involve to make it more usable at different c.f.s. The tween 700-1050 roughly to be usable but could theoretically be ran anywhere from 250 might not ever be accomplished, other Arkansas Canoe Club have been Dierks waves with the Corps of Engi- nary talks with Clinton Lake seem tion to the Corps, conducted by Dave in mid-November and hopefully we will

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(L) Tulsa area utility company, Public Service of Oklahoma, provided the funding to complete the Tulsa Wave project, including improvement of the river bank and to repair the diversion dam. Sherwood Construction company, located in Wichita was the primary contractor that completed the construction of the project. Heavy construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2005. Finishing touches will be completed by PSO staff along with local boaters from Arkansas Canoe Club, Dustbowl Chapter. Check out TulsaWave.com for more information. - Dave Reid

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Actions n' Captions



(Above) KCKA Instructor TJ Hittle and Megan Hadorn work on kayaking moves at a training class in Manhattan. TJ is one of the most experienced kayak instructors in Kansas and is one of the strongest advocates for safe boating practices.



(Above): Richard Seaton & TJ Hittle - twin vanity tags.



(Above, L-R): TJ Hittle, Tim Stoecklein, & Richard Seaton, work on some play moves at Rocky Ford near Manhattan, KS.



(Above) KCKA instructor Larry Storer sitting on the pool edge as kayak class member, Patrick Lewis, takes a break from practicing during a class presented by KCKA instructors in 2005.



(Above Right & Right, L-R): Richard Seaton & Patrick Lewis - "enjoying" the 8" depth mud on the new KDWP Boat Ramp on the Kansas River, near Perry, KS.





Coming Events

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 11, 2006. [PRIVATE/PSA][Meeting] Wichita Area Paddlers Monthly Meeting. One in a series of educational meetings covering boating news, safety, nature, water quality and general information for guests who might be interested in the paddling sport. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM, is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Contact: Chris Collins 316-942-4339
(Water Center location on map below)

Saturday, January 21, 2006. Kayak Chapter & Permit Party - 700 Gillespie Drive; Manhattan, KS - 6:00pm-10:00pm. Overnight guests by reservation. For Details, contact: TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director, 785-539-7772

Sunday, January 22, 2006. Session - KSU Natatorium, -UFM. Register for Pool Sessions through UFM Learning Center, 785-539-8763 in early January 2006. Contact: TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director, 785-539-7772

Directions to TJ & Jackie's house: 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.

Kayak Chapter Intermediate Pool Session - 8:30am-12:30pm, \$15/person fee - UFM. Register for Pool Sessions through UFM Learning Center, 785-539-8763 in early January 2006. More info to come. Contact: TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director, 785-539-7772

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5, 2006. Kayak Chapter Intermediate Pool Session - KSU Natatorium, 8:30am-12:30pm, \$15/person fee - UFM. Register for Pool Sessions through UFM Learning Center, 785-539-8763 in early January 2006. More info to come. Contact: TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director, 785-539-7772

Wednesday, February 8, 2006. [PRIVATE/PSA][Meeting] Wichita Area Paddlers Monthly Meeting. One in a series of educational meetings covering boating news, safety, nature, water quality and general information for guests who might be interested in the paddling sport. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM, is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Contact: Chris Collins 316-942-4339



Board Meeting and KCKA General Board Meeting at 3:30 followed by a general membership meeting with entertainment at 6:30 PM. RSVP required for dinner. All members welcome to attend the board meeting. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. (in Wichita). Contact: Jim Johnson 316-267-7890.

Saturday, February 11, 2006. KCKA Meeting for all KCKA members. catered (or nearby restaurant) dinner meeting with entertainment at 6:30 PM. RSVP required for dinner. All members welcome to attend the board meeting. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. (in Wichita). Contact: Jim Johnson 316-267-7890.

Board Meeting and KCKA General Board Meeting at 3:30 followed by a general membership meeting with entertainment at 6:30 PM. RSVP required for dinner. All members welcome to attend the board meeting. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. (in Wichita). Contact: Jim Johnson 316-267-7890.

Sunday, February 19, 2006. Kayak Chapter Intermediate Pool Session - KSU Natatorium, 8:30am-12:30pm, \$15/person fee - UFM. Register for Pool Sessions through UFM Learning Center, 785-539-8763 in early January 2006. More info to come. Contact: TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director, 785-539-7772

Coming Events



MARCH

Wednesday, March 8, 2006. [PRIVATE/PSA][Meeting] Wichita Area Paddlers Monthly Meeting. One in a series of educational meetings covering boating news, safety, nature, water quality and general information for guests who might be interested in the paddling sport. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM, is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Contact: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

APRIL

Wednesday, April 12, 2006. [PRIVATE/PSA][Meeting] Wichita Area Paddlers Monthly Meeting. One in a series of educational meetings covering boating news, safety, nature, water quality and general information for guests who might be interested in the paddling sport. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM, is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Contact: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

MAY

Wednesday, May 10, 2006. [PRIVATE/PSA][Meeting] Wichita Area Paddlers Monthly Meeting. One in a series of educational meetings covering boating news, safety, nature, water quality and general information for guests who might be interested in the paddling sport. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM, is free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Location: WATER Center. Map. 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS. Contact: Chris Collins 316-942-4339

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316-942-4339 / stuff2@chriscollins.com

Newest KCKA Members

Vernon & Kathy Palmer in Miltonvale, KS
Laura Calwell in Countryside, KS
Tom Grist in Andover, KS
Terry & Shane Pollard in Wichita, KS
Gary Fugit in Andover, KS
Kathy King in Manhattan, KS
Jack & Charlotte Norris in Augusta, KS
Dana Meinhardt in Topeka, KS
Steve & Brenda Denton in Wichita, KS
Kelly Sallee in Liberal, KS
David & Darragh Young in Wichita, KS
Eric Haynie in Wellington, KS
Janica White in Wellington, KS
John & Sandra Wenck in Des Moines, IA
Dan Chabot in Wichita, KS
Philip Wood in Wichita, KS
Kim Sylvester in Manhattan, KS
Ollie Smithwick in Wichita, KS

KCKA Board votes on Insurance

The board members of the KCKA recently voted on the issue of whether to continue the club insurance policy with the American Canoe Association and to continue involvement with the Paddle America program. After discussion of the goals of the board members and the overall financial cost to continue, the decision was made to not renew the contract for 2006. What this means is that trips posted are a public service announcement only and are not sanctioned, endorsed or recommended by KCKA even if the trip leader or organizer is a KCKA member. This will provide continue access to private trips for members to enjoy but release the KCKA from liability for these trips. Public Service Announcement (PSA) trips will continue to be scheduled and posted online as a service to help paddlers to coordinate trips and outings. Additional information will be posted either online or in upcoming issues of The Kansas Paddler newsletter.

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 6 column inch 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

\$ _____ 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
- KCKA Member: _____
- KANSAS PADDLER Home Page
- Information at a business (name): _____
- _____
- Article in News Media
- A KCKA activity booth
- Other/Name: _____

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 CLASSES, RIGHT 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 _____

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



Looking into 2006

As we look forward into 2006, the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association is set to keep the momentum we generated in 2005. As we move into our 31st year, we are looking forward to many programs that will offer members a chance to improve their boating skills and new programs to advance safety education for all interested.

In January and February the KCKA Kayak Chapter will offer Intermediate Kayak Chapter Workshops through KSU / University For Man (UFM). Enroll (785) 539-8763. This is an excellent opportunity for kayakers to work on their skills under the direction of our most active instructors. Kayak Chapter

members should look forward to their annual meeting and permit party in Manhattan, KS on January 21st. This is a chance to socialize with members and take part in the yearly effort to secure permits to America's great Western rivers. The more who apply, the better chance we have of getting one.

On February 11 is the KCKA annual meeting in Wichita, KS. Officers for 2006 will be installed and a special presentation of our 2005 Distinguished Service Award will be given. Trip leader T.J. Hittle will give a multimedia presentation on his three Grand Canyon trips, that have included many KCKA and other regional paddling club members.

I encourage every member to participate in our events. We have a lot to offer through our experienced members and they want to pass it on. As a club we have a lot to offer our communities, as we have shown in 2005. So please, join in the fun. See you on the river - Jim Johnson



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

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If you would prefer to receive a Full Color digital newsletter, send an email to: onehomer@yahoo.com