

PSC Paddler



Newsletter of the

Prairie State Canoeists

Volume 38 #5

August-September 2006

Visit our website at:

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Chair (2006)

John Ziegler *Elgin* **847-742-7316**

Co-Chair (2006)

Joan Taylor *Lombard* **630-495-1565**

Secretary (2006-2007)

Melinda Tury *Glendale Hts* **630-894-2285**

Treasurer (2006)

George Stenitzer *Wheaton* **630-462-3545**

Webmaster

Milt Levenberg *Libertyville* **847-680-1223**

Newsletter Editor

Sherri Graham *Warrenville* **630-393-0383**

Training Coordinators

Tom Lindblade *Rockford* **815-963-5945**

Tom Richardson *Oak Brook* **630-832-3523**

Board of Directors

Al Donaldson	<i>Loves Park</i>	<i>(2005-2006)</i>	815-654-3195
Susan Halvorsen	<i>Rockford</i>	<i>(2006)</i>	815-397-5145
Glenn Jensen	<i>Berwyn</i>	<i>(2006-2007)</i>	708-749-6141
Steve LaPorte	<i>Carol Stream</i>	<i>(2005-2006)</i>	630-665-5707
Mark Morral	<i>Caledonia</i>	<i>(2005-2006)</i>	815-765-3402
Frances Peshkin	<i>Elmhurst</i>	<i>(2006-2007)</i>	630-833-2789
Rebecca Sells	<i>Sugar Grove</i>	<i>(2006-2007)</i>	630-466-7093
Jane Sprenne	<i>Highland, IN</i>	<i>(2006-2007)</i>	219-923-2182
Janice Wellborn	<i>Oak Park</i>	<i>(2007)</i>	708-848-6026



From the Chair:

So far it looks like the water levels have been good for paddling this year. Let's get out and take advantage of it.

It is that time of year again when the nominating committee is looking for members to serve the club as a board member or an officer. Your club needs the help of qualified members to serve in these positions in order to keep operating. Please volunteer.

Reserve the date of November 11, 2006 for the fall banquet which will be held at Long Island Sound Banquets located at 1920 East New York St, Aurora, IL. It is located 2 ½ miles west of Fox Valley Mall on New York St. The dinner buffet will cost \$24.00 for adults, \$12.00 for children under 15 and \$6.00 for children age 5 or under. We will have three entrees plus salads and dessert. Look for more information in the next newsletter or on the web site as it becomes available.

John

From the Co-Chair:

Prairie State Canoeists Nominating Committee

Once again, a nominating committee has been named to select dedicated paddlers to take responsibility for running and enhancing our organization. JoAnn Benedetto has been named as chairperson. Other members are Melinda Tury, Janice Wellborn, and Joan Taylor. The offices to be elected are: Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer and 4 Board positions. Please contact one of the committee members if you would like to volunteer or nominate another person. Nominations will also be possible at the Annual Dinner and Meeting.

Joan

PSC T-shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available for purchase. You may make arrangements for UPS delivery or in person at some trips by contacting: Rebecca Sells via e-mail, or Linda Gebhart at: 630-466-7093.

Newsletter Deadlines

Vol 38#	Deadline	Trip Announcements
6	September 1	October-November
Vol 39#		
1	November 15	Dec 06-Jan 07
2	January 15	February-March
3	March 1	April-May
4	May 1	June-July
5	July 1	August-September

Contributions should be e-mailed to the newsletter editor.

OR mailed to: PSC Paddler, c/o Sherri Graham, 3S564 Haylett Ave, Warrenville, IL 60555



Paddlers Marketplace

Due to limited space, items will only be listed here for one issue unless you contact the editor and request that your ad continue. A new list is compiled for each issue.

For Sale: Blackhawk Canoe, Shadow, about 13', green on fiberglass, Mahogany and ash gunwales. Used very little, very good condition. Hope to get \$850. Call 608-362-8256

For Sale: 16' Penobscto, good condition; \$650 OBO. Bell Starfire, white gold; \$1100 OBO. Also: paddles, accessories, pads, packs, tent, misc, etc (I am no longer able to paddle-parting with the equipment) John Sullivan; 815-723-3282

Announcements

Prairie Rivers Network invites you to help raise funds for protecting water quality and wildlife habitat along Illinois' rivers and streams. Held at 400-acre former scout camp near Fox River. Big cycling event on Sat. Sept. 2 for all skill levels (events 10 to 100 mi), and canoe/kayak on Sunday. Hotels, primitive and electrified camping available. Other family-friendly activities too, including Nordic walking clinic. Details on www.rollingriverride.org. Questions contact 217 344 2371. Prairie Rivers Network helps individuals and community groups become effective river conservation leaders.

RIVER CLEAN-UP TOOLS

Through a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, PSC and other clubs now have some tools that are very handy for picking trash from rivers and riverbanks. These include "grabbers" (those things on an a three-foot extension that close with a trigger and grip an object), long-handled dippers (colanders fitted with four-foot long handles), and a claw tool with a five-foot handle. These were used for the first time on the Des Plaines on April 8, with great success and acclaim. Jean Weeg and the staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve agreed to store them, where they are available to anyone or any group for the purpose of cleaning up a waterway or nature area. For more information, contact Jean at 847-968-3332.



Welcome New Members (since March 12, 2006)

Bourgeois, Arthur & Marilyn

708-747-4546

22910 Bruce Dr., Richton Park, IL 60471

Gallo, Melina & John Lukashovich

Handelsman, Robert

847-491-1950

2643 Central Park Ave. Evanston, IL 60201

Leith, Peter & Dimitra

630-973-9566

236 Sterling Court, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Logan, Larry

847-231-4685

1073 Manchester Circle, Grayslake, IL 60030

Matusiak, Shari & Carole Mauloff

630-232-8857

128 School St, Geneva, IL 60134

McDonald, Michael & Robyn

Meintzer, Sharon & Chris

847-808-0411

377 S Wolf Rd, Wheeling, IL 60090

Metzger, Valerie

765-868-0097

1621 W Carter St, Kokomo, IN 46901

Nuesslein, James & Amy

Shakhnazaryan, Kamo

Sprinkle, Mike

312-286-6180

590 Windsor Circle, Inverness, IL 60067

Stacy, Lynn

Member Information Updates

Kirchen, Steve

630-539-1866

222 Oakwood Ln, Bloomingdale, IL 60108



Trip Announcements

Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.

5-Aug Rescue Clinic
Lower DuPage or Janesville Dam on the
Rock, depends on water levels
Advanced Beginner

Tom Lindblade 815-963-5945
Steve Laporte 630-665-5707

Rescue clinic/Teaches basic rescue skills necessary for flat and moving water. Must contact leader for details.

5-Aug-6-Aug Wildcat Rendezvous, Indiana
Advanced Beginner

Garry "Muskrat" Hill 765-628-3155

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.

5-Aug-6-Aug Wisconsin River Luau
Advanced Beginner/River Camping

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
John Shafran 708-788-1337

We will paddle two days on the wonderful Wisconsin River and camp on a sandbar overnight. The group dinner and campfire on Saturday evening will be a luau complete with tiki torches and tropical beverages with umbrellas. Hawaiiin shirts, grass skirts and other theme apparal encouraged. Call or e-mail for details

6-Aug Mecan River, Dakota, WI
Advanced Beginner

Al Donaldson 815-654-3195

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.

8-Aug-15-Aug Michigan Rivers, Lower MI
Advanced Beginner

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Lower Michigan- Jordon, Little Manistee, Pere Marquette, Pigeon, Pine and Sturgeon Rivers. Experienced Paddlers/Campers only please. You are welcome to come for part or all of the adventure. Camping and canoeing in Michigan is beautiful in the summer... These rivers have clean spring fed challenging but usually forgiving rapids. We will meet the evening of August 8 for the Pigeon, Sturgeon, Jordon part of the trip at Haakwood State Forest Campground just north of Wolverine. Camping for the Little Manistee, Pine, Pere Marquette part of the trip is Friday night August 11-Monday, Aug.14 is at the Paddlesports campground. To get to the Paddlesports Campground, take 94 east to 196 to 131 to Highway 10 at Reeds City and go west to Baldwin where you take 37 north, about 20 miles, to the Paddlesports campground, on the west side just before the Pine River bridge. Please do not bring firewood. It will be available at the campground. *Schedule of rivers is tentative and depends on conditions. Call or email for more info and to let me know you are coming.

11-Aug-13-Aug Wisconsin Whitewater
Intermediate/Advanced

Bill Barclay/Peg Strobel 708-386-1371

We will paddle whitewater rivers in northern WI including the Wolf and the Peshtigo. The choice of rivers will depend upon water levels and temperature. The rivers will include Wolf Section IV if accessible-and Peshtigo Section III). On Sun we will run several times-the Wausau whitewater course.



Trip Announcements

Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.

12-Aug-13-Aug Mecan River, Wisconsin John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316

The Mecan is a small spring-fed river with a steady current and sandy bottom. Numerous downfalls and twists in the river can make for interesting paddling. We will be camping at Mecan River Outfitters Friday & Saturday in the primitive group site. All campers must stop at the lodge to check in. Tell them that you are with Prairie State Canoeists. Call leaders for more info on the campground. Mecan River Outfitters (920-295-3439) is located 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Princeton on Hwy 23 or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Montello on Hwy 23. Car shift from campground at 9:00. Please call trip leaders.

13-Aug Chicago River Flatwater Classic Canoe Race

Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086

Join Friends of the Chicago River at the 7th Annual Flatwater Classic Race. Paddle the Chicago River in a competitive class of "the friendly float" from Clark Park on the North Branch to Ping Tom Park in Chinatown on the South Branch. Enjoy the contrasts between tree-lined shores and urban canyons. Call Ray Ziemer for more information or check out Friends' web page: <http://www.chicagoriver.org/news/flatwater2005.asp>

16-Aug Mid/Week Paddle Gang To Be Determined

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

Locations and times for this paddle will be posted immediately following the July 19, 2006 paddle.

19-Aug Sugar River Nelson Road to Kish/Pecatonica junction Beginner

Susan Halverson 815-654-3195

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.

20-Aug Des Plaines River New Members Trip

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314

This is a special invitation to NEW MEMBERS (and veterans) of Prairie State Canoeists to meet other club members and enjoy a popular river trail. Remember, you must have your own canoe or kayak and paddles and a PFD for each person. Note: On this trip, PFDs must be worn at all times on the water. Bring lunch, drinking water, and a change of clothes in a dry bag.

The exact put in location and time will be determined by water levels about a week before the trip. Check the club web site, www.prairie-statecanoeists.org or contact the leader for location and driving directions. Please let us know that you are coming.

26-Aug Kishwaukee River, IL Cherry Valley to Atwood Park Beginner

Stan Popelar 815-295-3211

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.



Trip Announcements

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**26-Aug- Kankakee River
Bird Park to State Park
Beginner**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

(Also see trip listing for Sunday, August 27—Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.)

This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. We will paddle from Bird Park in Kankakee to the Class D Campground /boat landing just west of Warner Bridge Road/Kankakee River State Park. This stretch is known for more rocks, gradient, numerous islands and some beautiful limestone outcroppings. We usually stop to have lunch at the picnic tables in the State Park and later hike/wade the Rock Creek Canyon if there is interest. Directions: Take IL RT 17 or IL RT 113 to where they intersect on the west side of Kankakee at the Kankakee River. On the west side of the river, IL RT 113 (Wall Street) ends at IL RT 17. Go south on Wall Street to the very first driveway; turn left into Bird Park and follow the road to the left under the RT 17 bridge to the boat landing. Carshift at 9:30am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend-especially if you want to camp.

**27-Aug Kankakee River
State Line to Momence
Beginner**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

(Also see trip listing for Saturday, Aug 26—Join us for one or both days and/or camping overnight at Kankakee River State Park if there is enough interest and prior notice.)

We will paddle from the IN/IL state line to Momence. This is a really nice trip and it is close to home. The view at the put-in is rather amazing. When you look upstream you see the Kankakee River Ditch in Indiana that was engineered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. When you look downstream, you see the natural curves and shoreline to the portion in Illinois. The stretch has some cottages on it but is usually quiet. Directions: The put-in is at the intersection of State Line Road and the River at the North side (DO NOT try to access this from the south—the bridge is closed!). You may access State Line Road from IL RT 17. Go south of RT 17 approximately 3 miles to the closed bridge at the river. There is a large gravel parking lot on the left. Carshift at 10:00 am; please call/e-mail if you plan to attend, especially if you want to camp.

**30-Aug Mid/Week Paddle Gang
To Be Determined**

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

Locations and times for this paddle will be posted immediately following the August 16, 2006 paddle.



Trip Announcements

Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.

2-Sep-4-Sep Namekagon, Wisconsin Advanced Beginner

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316

This river is part of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway. We will paddle from the County K landing below the Trego Dam to Riverside landing of the St Croix River. We will be river camping at campsites that are maintained by the National Park Service. The sites have pit toilets, fire rings and drinking water. The Namekagon flows an average of 3 miles per hour in this stretch. The river is rated as Advanced Beginner as it has lots of ripples and things to negotiate but isn't considered to be too technical. We will do about 14 miles on Saturday, 12-17 miles on Sunday, and 4.5-7.5 miles on Monday. This shouldn't be too taxing and should allow us all to be setting up camp in mid-afternoon Saturday and Sunday and to be on the road heading home around noon on Monday. The drive to the Trego, WI area requires approximately 4 hours from Madison, WI but worth the trip! If you would like to participate in a community/shared dinner on Saturday night, please let us know. You must call or e-mail for more details and to sign up for this awesome trip!

2-Sep-4-Sep Wisconsin River, Wisconsin River Camping

Louis, Ruth & Tyler Igyarto 847-587-7462

We intend to be river camping on sand bars for 3 days and 2 nights so we will need to carry with us in our canoes all of the food, water, and equipment necessary to sustain us for that period. PUTIN directions: (from Chicago) Follow I-90(NW tollway) north to Madison, WI. Get off at the exit for US 12 & 18 west. Follow 18 west to Dodgeville. In Dodgeville, pick up SR23 north to SR130 north. Follow 130 until it turns into SR133 west. Follow 133 into Muscoda. Turn right (north) and proceed through town to Victoria Park, which is located along the river, just before the bridge. PUTIN time: Meet at Muscoda boat launch in Victoria Park for 9:00 am Saturday morning. At that time we will make the decision regarding where we will put in and take out in accordance with the current weather and river conditions.

3-Sep Lower Des Plaines Willow Springs to Isle a La Cache Beginner

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

Historic canoe route, Willow Springs to Isle a La Cache in Romeoville (approx. 12 miles). Put-in at Columbia Woods Forest Preserve canoe landing, downstream right from the Willow Springs Road Bridge, west side of Willow Springs Road 1/2 mile north of Archer Avenue (Hwy 171). Entrance into Columbia Woods is between the railroad overpass and the gas station. Car shift 9:30 a.m.



Trip Announcements

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7-Sep Des Plaines/Moonlight Libertyville Advanced Beginner

Andy Cocallas 847-680-5219

Paddle under a full moon and enjoy a pleasant evening along the Des Plaines river. E/mail for more info.

9-Sep-10-Sep Midwest Freestyle Symposium, Peninsula, Ohio Advanced Beginner

Paul Klonowski 847-687-2477

Learn the Art of Precision Boat Control, with ACA/Certified Freestyle Instructors (no, I'm just a student at this...). Carpool will leave Friday AM; Return Sunday evening (flexible on both ends). A good grasp of Intro/level canoe handling skills are strongly recommended. For both solo and tandem canoes!

9-Sep-10-Sep Pine River, Michigan Advanced Beginner

Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554
Bill Barclay/Peg Stroebel 708-386-1371

We will paddle two days on the Pine River (Elm Flats to Low Bridge), returning to camp after the first day. The Pine is a beautiful river with moderate to quick current and one stretch of Class I rapids. Tight bends and chutes, especially on the second day, require basic paddling skills e. g. draws, pries, etc. The Pine is part of the wild and scenic river program. However, because we have moved this trip beyond the permit expiration date, we will not be required to obtain permits; the parking fee will be in effect, however (\$5 for the weekend). We will camp at Pine River Paddlesports Center on the left (west-side of highway 37 just before you cross the Pine River going north.

9-Sep Moving Water I DuPage River / Hammel Woods, Shorewood Beginner

Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707

This is an opportunity to tune up your moving water skills on a fun and forgiving stretch of the DuPage River. You will learn and practice strokes and moving water maneuvers like ferries, eddy turns and peel/outs. You must have taken the Introduction to Paddling training or have previously had some formal paddling instruction. Class size will depend on the number of instructors available. The cost will be \$10.00 (\$20.00 if you are not an ACA member). Please e/mail and let me know you are coming. Be sure to include your address and phone number. Call (630-665/5707). Detailed information will be provided to anyone interested.

10-Sep Upper Fox, Wisconsin

John & Barb Shaw 630-961-3479

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.

13-Sep Mid/Week Paddle Gang To Be Determined

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

Locations and times for this paddle will be posted immediately following the August 30, 2006 paddle.



Trip Announcements

Details here are complete as of publication time but due to the nature of our sport, things can change. It is suggested that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend a trip. That way if there are last minute changes, they can let you know.

17-Sep Lower Fox

**Sheridan to Wedron
Beginner**

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

This section of the lower Fox River from Sheridan to Wedron (approx. 11 miles) is always interesting with the rock formations. Hoping for a beautiful Fall trip. The put-in will be at Scooters on Robinson Road at the river just north of downtown Sheridan. We will take out at either Ayers Landing or C&M canoe. There is a \$1.00 fee for putting-in and a \$5.00 fee for parking and take-out. This is a longer trip than the just the Rte 52 to Wedron section, which is the second half of this trip. Car shift at 9:30 a.m.

17-Sep Rock River

**Oregon to Grand Detour
Beginner**

Glenn & Dawn Rabick 847-515-2821

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details. 9:30 car shift.

21-Sep Des Plaines

**Upper Des Plaines
Beginner**

Andy Cocallas 847-680-5219

Paddle along the upper Des Plaines. Location depending on water levels.

**22-Sep-24-Sep Wisconsin Whitewater
Beginner/Intermediate**

Bill Barclay/Peg Strobel 708-386-1371

Kasy Culbertson 608-222-0746

Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Time to paddle - Pike, Peshtigo, Wolf. River selection will depend upon water levels, paddler interests, and weather. Call leader for details.

**23-Sep-24-Sep Kickapoo River, Wisconsin
Fall Colors Trip**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

John & Marilyn Ziegler 847/742/7316

This is our annual fall appreciation trip. Usually the colors are phenomenal and the river valley as seen from the lookout at the Wildcat Mountain State Park is breathtaking. It is known as the 'crookedest river in Wisconsin.' Saturday night we like to have a feast/community dinner. We have a group site reserved at Wildcat Mountain State Park (the one in the trees). Call for details, to sign up for what to contribute to the dinner and to reserve your spot. Directions: Take I-90-94 west from Madison. Exit RT 82 at the Mauston (Milepost 69). Follow RT 82 west to RT 80. Go south through Elroy to RT 33 at Union Center. Take RT 333 west to Wildcat Mountain State Park or on to Ontario to the put-in. We will carshift from the campground at 8:30. Put-in is on the east side of the river at the edge of town at 9:00. Please call /e-mail if you plan to attend.

**23-Sep-29-Sep Week of Northern WI
Rivers, Jump. Deerskin, Brule, Spirit,
Totegic, White, Bad Beginner/Intermediate**

Tom Lindblade 630-942-2356

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

This will be a week of some of the little known but wonderful rivers in Northern Wisconsin. The trip will be co/listed with The River Touring Wisconsin Sierra Club's Paul Withington. Who has led trips for the Sierra Club in Northern Wisconsin for many years. Actual rivers paddled will depend on conditions. Contact leaders (preferably by email) for specifics



Trip Announcements

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30-Sep-1-Oct Fawn/Pigeon Rivers, IN Beginner++

Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554
Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296

We will be camping at Riverside Campground east of Shipshewana on IN Rte 120. Depending on water levels, it will be decided which rivers will be done each day. Carshift from campground on Sat. will be at 9:30 sharp and on Sun. at 9:00 sharp. Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday evening for an Amish dinner in Shipshewana. Directions: Take IN 80/90 east to IN13. Go south on 13 to IN120. Go east on 120 for 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles to 450 west. North on 450 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, over bridge and

left turn into campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to trip, (Thursday at the latest).

1-Oct Illinois River, LaSalle to Hennepin Beginner/Intermediate

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

Watch The PSC Website or contact the leader for more details.

3-Oct-10-Oct Michigan Rivers, Lower MI Advanced Beginner

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Schedule is tentative and depends on conditions. Call or email for more info and to let us know you are coming.

Trip Reports

6-May 2005 DuPage River, Plainfield to Shorewood

A cool, sunny day, and a little rain the week before made this trip a pleasure. Putting in at Electric Park in Plainfield, 3 canoes and 3 kayaks enjoyed a nice paddle through the historic areas of Plainfield. The usual blue herons led us down the stream, and snapping turtles the size of hub caps lined the banks. After lunch we found enough water in the narrower channel through Hammel Woods and took out above the dam. Thanks to new member Alan Leis for car shift, and to Eli Watts for helping me and Buddy down the river. **Ray Ziemer**

11-Sept Pecatonica River, WI

A couple from Freeport stopped by Brewster Landing to watch us launch. They recently bought a used aluminum canoe. He has been pounding out the dents and would be ready for a test paddle soon. They are anxious to join one of our paddles. Not much wildlife on the

trip. Jamie's LiquidLogic Kayak is only 2 weeks old. She enjoyed putting a few more miles on it. We talked a lot and shared paddling stories. My, how time flies when you're having fun. The remnants of the 2 old Fisher Dams caused a few ripples and some fast water for about 5 seconds each. Two paddlers in our group had never paddled this segment before. Even tho I have paddled this river segment a few times, it is rewarding and fun to share the trip with new paddlers. IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS! That infamous 'plastic barrel', spotted on the Aug 13 trip, was spotted again. I pulled it out of the brush and sent adrift. If I see that barrel on Wednesday's paddle, I will tie a rope on it, drag it to the take-out and properly dispose of it. **Lee Butler**

14-Sept Pecatonica River

We intended to pick up that plastic 55 gallon barrel that we have been seeing on this river segment. On previous trips, we would spot it in the brush and set it free to float downstream.



Trip Reports

You never know. That barrel could have hazardous chemicals lurking inside!

We spotted the infamous barrel a little over 5 miles downstream. It was hung up on the second dam at Fishers Mill. The barrel was pushed to continue down the river. Once we were free of the riffles, a rope was tied to the barrel and it was towed. The barrel did not tow very good. Joe followed the barrel and pushed it with his kayak. At least we had a tail wind!!

We were prepared to call the county environmental group to haul this barrel away. The length of the tow was 1.4 miles! We tried to be very careful of this potential hazardous container. We dragged it up on the cement ramp and noticed a fluid coming out near the bottom. 'River water'! After the river water ran out of the barrel, it was loaded on the kayak trailer, and returned to Freeport for proper recycling. **Lee Butler**

17-Sep Des Plaines, Gurnee Illinois

Five kayaks (where were the canoes) paddled down the Des Plaines from Gowe Park to Oak Spring Rd. The dry weather and epidemic reduced the number of birds we might normally see. The Blue Heron made its proverbial visit. We stopped for lunch at Independence Park. The group agreed that this park had the best washrooms of any trip run by PSC. The low water and strainers made for a few unusual maneuvers. Despite a handful of obstacles, we enjoyed ourselves all day. **Glenn Jensen**

17-Sep Pierce Lake, Rock Cut State Park

Approximately 50 people participated in the lake clean-up from various different paddling clubs in the area. Kayaks and canoes spread out over the lake and collected enough garbage to fill a dumpster. Paddle and Trail treated everyone to pizza, water, and ice tea for lunch.

PSC was represented by Al Donaldson and Melinda Tury. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We had geese, ducks, a coot, and about 10 cormorants supervising the clean-up. The fish were jumping all over the lake after minnow schools and bugs lending the "surprise element". The IDNR conservation officers thanked everyone for a job well done. **Melinda Tury**

18-Sept Sugar River, WI

Sugar River gage at Brodhead was reading 158 cfs and .44 feet (extremely low, as the average flow for this date is 240 cfs) The stream had enough depth to avoid walking the boats, but occasional bottom scraping was unavoidable. It was a good day for wildlife, with a Bald Eagle leading us partway down the river. **Al Donaldson**

2-Oct Pecatonica River

One of our paddlers was a GP Doctor. One paddler came from Bloomingdale, 115 miles. Two of our canoe paddlers were 77 years old. There were 4 in that canoe, parents, daughter, and grand-daughter. The aluminum canoe hit bottom at the old Fischer Mill Dam but slid over the rocks easily. We got to view the very old stone Fischer Mill House (thru the trees, from the river). We got rained on very, slightly. All paddlers launched their boats without getting wet!! All paddlers exited their boats without getting wet!! We met new paddlers and exchanged a lot of paddling stories, paddling tips, and past & future paddling trips. **Lee Butler**

8-Oct Salt Creek of Des Plaines River, IL

Summer drought conditions threatened our trip, but recent rains brought the Salt up to an optimum level for paddling. An overcast and windy day caused cool weather but the forest blocked the gusts and made it pleasant



Trip Reports

for the one canoe, kayak and inflatable. We saw a myriad of deer, Blue Herons, owls, and hornet nests. Signs of beaver were everywhere. Many strainers tested our maneuvering skills. Most could be paddled around or through, although we had to portage one. The journey through Bemis Woods was the most cluttered part of the trip.

At Brezina Woods we stopped for lunch. We pulled our boats onto the gravel beach and were surprised to see a man wearing fatigues sleeping in a jungle tent high in the trees. Even stranger was that he guessed we were from PSC. After our meal we bided tree-man adieu and continued our paddle.

The Salt's clear waters unmasked its hidden treasures of tires, shopping carts, and road signs. While paddling through Brookfield Zoo we saw many Homo Sapiens starring back at us. We reached the confluence and drew our crafts ashore. We finished off the day with a variety of homebrew libations on-tap. **Glenn Jensen**

12-Oct Pecatonica River, IL

The weather report for this paddle was not very good; cool, cloudy, drizzle, light rain. But we decided to paddle anyway. The weather turned out perfect. Paddlers; Lee, Joe, Rod, John, Melinda, & Anna. This was Anna's 2nd paddling experience. She did very well.

During the carshift, John started the launch early and fell in the river. When I returned from the carshift, John had completed his clothing change. John is a very experienced paddler and just made a dumb mistake. I hope his digital camera survives the bath!

We sometimes paddled 2 abreast sharing conversations; sometimes, 3 abreast. And near the end of the trip, we were 6 abreast paddling down this wide river.

At the West McConnell Road Bridge take-out, John and Melinda decided to paddle 8 more miles down to the next takeout. **Lee Butler**

17-Oct Des Plaines River

Eight members enjoyed a wonderful evening paddling under a Full Moon with no clouds and unusually warm weather. Fall colors were out as sunset arrived, followed by night sightings of deer, tails slapping from beaver and large flocks of Geese honking overhead. Water was sufficient and it was a great group of paddlers to enjoy a full moon on the Des Plaines River. **Andy Cocallas**

22-Oct Mekan River

We started this trip well upstream of the "usual" Dakota put in. The first four miles are even tighter than the Dakota to WI 22 section (Which, itself, is tight and twisty enough to cause a bit of directional disorientation.) Water level allowed good paddling, with no bottom scraping save for those who chose the "less than perfect" lines. Clear water, good fall colors and the normal fish and fowl were supplemented nicely by the sighting of a fine Pileated Woodpecker. Thanks to Joe Tybor for allowing us to use his dock and riverside for a late lunch stop (most of this section of the Mekan runs through private property, and places to stop and beach several boats legally are few.) **Al Donaldson**



Trip Reports

22-Oct-23-Oct Tippecanoe-Kankakee Rivers

We had eleven paddlers on a cloudy Tippecanoe river Sat. Lucky us the sun was out for a few minutes at the viewing platform in the marsh where 13,330 Sandhill cranes put on their spectacular show at sun set. Sun we did the Kankakee River. Thank you to Clyde Wells for the shuttle both days. **Fran Almquist**

25-Oct Elkhorn Creek

At a gage flow (Penrose Gage) of 20 CFS, the creek does not have enough water for a club trip. There was lots of assorted wildlife, but numerous stream-spanning obstructions and gravel bars made for a rather athletic trip. Would suggest a flow rate of at least 50 CFS and some saw work in order for this to make a good club paddle. **Al Donaldson**

29-Oct Badfish Creek

Wildlife seen included: red tail hawks, osprey, kingfishers, wood ducks, various warblers, migrating geese, ducks, Sandhill cranes (heard but not seen) and a school of bluegills darting everywhere in the water. The deer and other wildlife usually seen were hiding in the woods or their dens because of the hunters. We stopped on a sand/gravel bar for a relaxing lunch. Obstacles were few with only one drag over but lots of maneuvering. Two people went for an involuntary swim but were none the worse for wear! Overall, a very relaxing beautiful day enjoyed by all! **Melinda Tury**

30-Oct Pecatonica River, IL

Water Temperature: — 46 degrees. We started our paddling trip at 11am. We stopped 5.5 miles downstream at Pec Forest Preserve for lunch at 12:30. More paddling stories and ideas were exchanged during lunch. After lunch, some of the paddlers loaded up and went home. Some of the vehicles were shut-

tled down to the 12 Mile take-out to continue the paddle. The second leg of this 6.5 mile paddle started at 1:50pm. We took-out at Trask Bridge at 3:30pm. The raindrops were very, very light. We stood around at the Trask Bridge Parking Lot talking about what else? Paddling. Paddling is a very quiet sport. Conversations and stories were exchanged during the paddling trip on the river. I think this social time, while getting outdoor exercise, is one of the real attractions to paddling. **Lee Butler**

November, Des Plaines River Rt. 120-Riverside Park

Freezing weather for a night paddle; winds were 30 to 40 miles an hour with temps in the 20's. Stopped for some hot apple cider and stretch break. Some beaver along with Geese and Blue Herring. **Andy Cocallas**

1-Nov Badfish Creek

River gauge at Cooksville 4.53 ft with 75 cfs. A wonderful twisty creek with crystal clear water and lots of current early in the day. The 75 cfs is a bit down from it's 100 cfs average this time of year. Check out the USGS real-time water gauge as it is a hoot. Up and down daily with the City of Madison Wastewater Treatment discharge. This is a creek that will challenge your skills. You need to have definite maneuvering skills to navigate the 180 degree hairpin turns, manage the current and avoid strainers, rocks and sandy shallows. Gradient is not steep but with the regular current the riffles keep coming at you. No room for complacency. The river is a lot of fun if you appreciate moving water. Fallen deadfall is common but we all have to thank Al Donaldson for his persistence and diligence in removing much of the worst offenders. Al has made it a summer long project to remove



Trip Reports

the walk-overs and trim the openings where current is treacherous. His efforts are huge and so much appreciated. Fall color was still evident and the barred owl made his regular appearance; looking forward to the next outing. Bonus: Wonderful historic buildings in Cooksville from the early 1800's - a great place to stop is the General Store with original counters and shelving - an interesting place to people watch - cars, trucks, farm equipment and riding lawn mowers pull up to the gas pump and the folks stop to sit and chat - a spell - paddlers, bicyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts round out the clientele. Ice cream, drinks and other goodies await. **Sharon Colth**

5-Nov

Sugar River

Our trip started out with 3 kayaks, and 3 canoes on a cloudy, windless, 60 degree morning. The morning paddle was quiet with only occasional song bird sounds coming from the woods. We lunched on a sand bar under one of the bridges - no MOOSE MUCK! - yeah!! During lunch the wind sprung up and the temperature started dropping. A small flock of wild turkeys were seen on the bank, of course our great blue heron, a couple of ducks, several hawks but nothing else because of the gun shots heard coming from the woods. Everything was lying very low. A loud shout of "Run Bambi, Run" was heard after a "too close for comfort" gun shot was heard (gee, I wonder who yelled that?). At about 1 pm we had some light drizzle, then heavier rain mixed with small hail - interesting how it bounces off the spray skirt. The rain stopped but we could hear thunder in the distance. We were off the river at about 2:30, did the car shift, got everyone loaded and just barely got into our cars when Mother Nature decided to dump the bucket and give us everything she had. I think she was just washing off our boats and had taken pity on us in holding off until we were

done loading. Then came the heavy down pours, lightning, and wind. BUT - our paddle down the river was delightful and enjoyed by everyone!

Melinda Tury

6-Nov

Pecatonica River

We met a guy from Browntown who was interested in paddling. He said that he regularly comes out to the boat ramp for some quiet time. I gave him our paddling brochure and web site information.

This is a very quiet water trail. We heard voices coming from an ATV in a farm field nearby. However, there were hundreds of noisy red-wing blackbirds in one area, apparently discussing migration plans! A fishing boat near Brewster Landing saw us coming and moved downstream about 500 feet.

John and I had a good chat on the river. It had rained real hard the night before. The river appeared to be up a little and current seemed faster.

We stopped about half-way downstream for a lunch break on a small rocky site. Most of the Pecatonica River banks are muddy and 6 to 10 feet tall. But, there are a few rocky river bank sites along this water trail. **Lee Butler**

1-Jan

New Year's Day

— North Branch Chicago River

This was the 20th year of the Chicago River New Year's Day paddle. What a great way to start the new year of paddling! Mother Nature shined down on us, thawed the river, gave us balmy 40's with little wind and the sun actually came out for a few minutes making for a wonderful day for paddling. Over 200 people signed in - 31 PSC members - spread out between 7:30 am and 12:30 pm when I left to go to Hackneys restaurant. Channel 9 and 5 sent



Trip Reports

TV crews out to film the paddlers. Our paddlers reported numerous deer and birds in the woods and more water in the river than last year making the portaging of the dams much easier. The forest preserve provided buses for the shuttle, port-a-potties at the put in, and help at the two dams. I think we only had one person go in and that happened at the put in - he slipped on the ice in the little side creek and got wet before they launched or had done the shuttle so it was easy to change clothes. All in all, everyone who I talked to said they had a wonderful time and would be back next year. The only complaint that I had from people was that there was no help at the take out and that even the paddlers seemed to be out for themselves and didn't help each other. I know they were NOT PSC members! We always help each other! **Melinda Tury**

21-Jan Little Wapsipinicon River

This is a delightful little river with a gradient of over 5 feet per mile through this 11.6 mile section, most of which drop is in the first 6 miles. Almost totally unused by paddlers, this stream nevertheless has few strainers or blockages, and has many fairly interesting riffles and chutes in the upper six miles. Lots of wildlife!

There is no gage for the river, but if the Wapsipinicon River gage at Independence is flowing at over 1000 cfs, the Little Wapsi will likely offer good paddling. When the Wapsi is flowing at 500 cfs (at Independence) the Little Wapsi may show some shallow spots. If one can inspect the dam on the Little Wapsi at Fairbank, a flow of 2 inches or more water over the top of the dam will indicate good depth. A flow over that will be a plus! **Al Donaldson**

12-Feb Des Plaines River

This trip is flat-water all the way, but with fallen trees and cold water/air temps, an intermediate skill level is appropriate. We cut our way through one logjam, and paddled over a couple of fallen trees. Deer crossing the river, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, kingfishers, robins, cardinals, sparrows. We saw a few places where the beavers have marked their territory — the red musk oil in the snow is a giveaway; lots of evidence of beaver activity the entire distance. **Paul Klonowski**

22-Apr DuPage River

We paddled the DuPage River through Naperville from Centennial Beach Park to Knock Knolls Park on the south end of Naperville. The weather was about perfect with enough water in the river to make it passable with out too much scraping. Another 2 inches of water would have made everything perfect. This section of the DuPage River hasn't been canoed has a club trip for years, 10-15 years. We could not believe how nice the river was and almost forgot we were in the midst of a large city except for the large houses along the way. Thanks to all that took part and to Sherri for stopping by to help with the shuttle even though she couldn't canoe. **Paul Clifford**

6-May Fox River, IL

Four deer, painted turtles, two Sandhill cranes and six cormorants enjoyed watching five muscle-powered boats pass by in their secluded backwater. We enjoyed seeing a large rookery in a flood plain grove. The leader was responsible for direction of a tandem canoe but hit a buoy; no damage to the buoy or canoe. **Jerry Kolar**



Trip Reports

6-May-7-May Middlefork of the Vermillion

We enjoyed a beautiful warm weekend on the Middlefork this year! The water level at 2.10 on the gauge was nearly perfect. Saturday everyone enjoyed the riffles, the spring flow-ers and some wildlife, (including a bald eagle), as we paddled from Kinny's Ford to Kickapoo State Park. Clark Bullard and Sandy Bales, from Champaign joined us on Saturday. Both of them were very instrumental in helping to save the Middlefork River from being dammed up and also to gain the National Wild and Scenic River designation. Clark led us on a hike to the hillside prairie and the Indian Ceremonial & burial grounds. His knowledge of the area grows each year and is always interesting and fascinating as he shares it with us. On the way to dinner at Ryan's Steakhouse in Danville, Jim and Alice Deck led us to a beautiful wetland area where a new lookout tower made of logs was recently erected. The view was spectacular! Larry & Evelyn Tennyson

6-May DuPage River, Plainfield-Shorewood

This easy stretch of flat water had a little extra water this trip - enough to keep us off the bottom, for the most part. Nine paddlers and a big black dog named Buddy were out in canoes and kayaks to enjoy a nice day on the DuPage, putting in near the historic area of Plainfield. Lunch was at the Riverside Park off Caton Farm Road, and then we dodged snapping turtles all the way through Hammel Woods to the take-out above the Shorewood Dam. Thanks to Alan Leis for car shift, and to Eli Watts for the company. **Ray Ziemer**

20-May-21-May

Sugar River Daze

Mackinaw Canoe Club and Prairie State Canoe-ists joined for an almost perfect weekend of paddling on May 20-21. David and Mary Stjern were joined by PSC paddlers Melinda Tury, John Shafran, Claude Diez, Susan Halvorson, Doug Brannon and John and Marilyn Ziegler together with MCC paddlers Marilyn Black and Float and Lorrie Prothero. The weather was just great and the light sprinkling of rain Saturday evening held off until most of us had retired for the night.

We launched Saturday at the Nelson River landing in Wisconsin. The water was high, fast and, in consequence, somewhat murky. There was considerably more deadfall, especially on Saturday, than in prior years making for more maneuvering and occasional backtracking to try another channel but no portaging. One tree claimed three victims, two of whom were treated to a brief swim. We stopped at Colored Sands Forest Preserve for lunch which has a good landing, picnic tables, pit toilet and pump. We pulled out and seven of us base camped at Sugar River Forest Preserve which is a really first class facility with showers. Sunday we had a few less paddlers although were joined by John and Marilyn Ziegler and rejoined by Susan for the all-too-short paddle from Sugar River Preserve to the Two Rivers Forest Preserve on the Pecatonica about a quarter mile upstream from the confluence where we enjoyed a cake break after loading the boats. Wildlife sightings included herons, Canada geese, warblers, owls, turkey vultures, mallards, wood ducks, catfish and a huge old snapping turtle. Thanks to Susan and Float for helping with the shuttles. Why describe this as an almost perfect weekend? Only because the paddling distances could have been longer!
David & Mary Stjern



Trip Reports

21-May Des Plaines Canoe Marathon

Beautiful weather prevailed for the 49th Annual Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon. Some current was discernible, (but not enough to improve our time!) There was a little delay at the starting line in Libertyville, but once that was straightened out, it was a fine paddle. Thanks to all the volunteers, including the group helping to get people and boats off the water at the Finish Line. Tee shirts and hot dogs were available at the Des Plaines finish line, too, and we just got our patches in the mail last week. Photos are also available for purchase this year. Race results are on line at <http://www.canoemarathon.com>. If you participated, don't forget to call or email Ray Ziemer for paddle points if you haven't done so already. **Ray Ziemer**

27-May Fox River

A scenic drive through Chain-O-Lakes State Park led to the boat launch. Good things about this trip were no shuttle, running water and toilets at all stops and pre-European scenery (no houses). Re-introduced wild turkeys are thriving and Sandhill cranes are back. Last year a lone wolf (from Wisconsin) tried to find a home in old territory. He became a road kill. The IDNR is doing a fine job of restoring and managing this park. I hope they can add more land before the park becomes an island surrounded by development. **Jerry Kolar**

3-Jun DuPage River Sweep

Thanks to Tom and Bobbie Kocim for joining me for a beautiful day on the West Branch, even if we were picking up trash! For three people we hauled out more than our share - grocery carts and construction barricades - from the short stretch between Warrenville Grove and McDowell Grove. Sponsorship, garbage bags, and disposal were provided by the Conservation Foundation. Good work, Folks! **Ray Ziemer**

17-Jun Horicon Marsh, WI

It's tough to put a positive spin on this trip. The launch at the edge of the Horicon was our third choice. Paddling mostly north in the occasional shallow of the old Rock River bed, Burnett Ditch and the main ditch go us to lunch on the dike. Here we found the water control structure was letting water flow north instead of south. After lunch we headed south via the main ditch and we had to face a strong headwind. We all made it safely to our launch site and did see the white pelicans. **Jerry Kolar**



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 DUES: \$15.00 (Dues paid after Sept 1, are applied to next year.)
 ___NEW MEMBER _____RENEWAL _____NEW ADDRESS/PHONE

Please make checks payable to:
 Complete & SIGN, then mail to:

PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS
 c/o George Stenitzer
 1102 Westhaven Dr
 Wheaton, IL 60187

READ AND SIGN BELOW:

I AGREE THAT I AM TAKING PART IN THE PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS ACTIVITIES AT MY OWN RISK. I WILL NOT HOLD PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS, ITS OFFICERS, TRIP LEADERS, AND/OR MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES (INCLUDING DEATH) OR PROPERTY LOSS I MAY INCUR WHILE TAKING PART IN CLUB ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT PADDLING IS AN ASSUMED RISK SPORT, THAT PRAIRIE STATE CANOEISTS IS A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION WITHOUT PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MYSELF/FAMILY. BY SIGNING MY NAME HERE, I INDICATE THAT I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND THAT NEITHER I NOR ANY MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY WILL SUE THE CLUB OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

ALL ADULTS MUST SIGN

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