



PSC Paddler

The Newsletter of Prairie State Canoeists, A Canoe and Kayak Club Founded in 1971

www.prairiestatecanoeists.org

Volume 39 No.1 December 2006-January 2007

499 PSC Paddlers Set New Records

20,610 Miles, 176 Trips

Almost 500 individuals joined PSC trips this season, which officially ended on November 5. The final tally indicates that 499 different people paddled a total of 20,610 miles. They logged 176 trips and 237 days of paddling. Eighty-six trip leaders led forays as far away

as Georgia, Florida, Missouri, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Seventy-four paddlers earned their 100-mile patches this season, and 27 individuals dedicated paddle time to cleaning up our rivers. The annual awards are listed in this issue.

Prairie State Canoeists
c/o George Stenitzer
177 North Adams
Oswego IL 60543

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Renew Now and Save. Dues Hike Set for January 1

Following deliberations that spanned more than four months, the PSC board of directors reluctantly approved an increase in annual dues. The increase, to \$20.00, will be effective on January 1, 2007; those who renew or join the club before that date can do so at the current rate of \$15.00. The measure was taken

on the recommendation of treasurer George Stenitzer, who reported that rising expenses would quickly deplete the club's reserves. The move to hold the line until January was a compromise. "It gives people a chance to join at the old rate and then prepare for the increase a year from now," said Stenitzer.

New PSC Officers and Directors Elected for 2007

Four new directors, treasurer, and co-chair were chosen for the 2007 year at the Prairie State Canoeists annual meeting November 11. The slate recommended by the nominating committee included Susan Halvorsen, Carlin Horbal, Rich Rothrock, and John Shafran as directors and George Stenitzer for treasurer for two-year terms, and Jane Sprenne for co-chair. All were elected.

Stenitzer had been appointed as treasurer for 2006 to fill a vacant position, and Halvorsen had been appointed to fill the position vacated

by Joan Taylor when she became co-chair. Currently serving in their second year on the board are Glenn Jensen, Frances Peshkin, and Rebecca Sells. Janice Wellborn was appointed as director earlier in the year to complete vacated position that expires in 2007. In its first meeting following the annual meeting, the board appointed Ray Ziemer as director to finish the vacated term of Jane Sprenne. Melinda Tury continues as secretary, and Joan Taylor begins her term as chair.

From the New Chair . . .

This is a great time to become chair. I am following in the wake of several very strong leaders. It should be possible for me to float for a year!

Seriously, though, I am a person who loves to paddle new rivers and meet others who love adventure, and I have some dreams and priorities for this year. I would love to hear yours.

More advocacy—My top priority is to increase our members' support of the good work of Illinois Paddling Council. We are so fortunate to have such a group. I would love to see all of our members supporting them.

More volunteers—During the last few years, we have had an increase of volunteers (trip leaders, social organizers, picnic people, and certified instructors). The volunteers have made a tremendous contribution to the club, and I hope you will join these folks in 2007.

More and different rivers—One way of accomplishing this goal is to coordinate with other groups. I am working on a trip

in Pennsylvania, one with the Wildcat group on a section of the creek most of us haven't paddled, a trip with the Mackinaw River Club, and trips on more rivers with the Wisconsin Sierra Club. I look forward to hearing your trip suggestions.

More input from members—It is easier than ever to contact the club officers and directors via e-mail and the web site bulletin board. I plan to carry on the new tradition of asking for your opinion on issues facing the club. I hope you will respond.

More members and guests—In 2006, we had 469 members; my goal for 2007 is 519. I will seek new ways of increasing membership and participation on trips. For example, we will supply all trip leaders with trip lists and membership applications and modify the sign-in sheet to request e-mail and postal addresses of guests.

I look forward to serving you as the club Chair and paddling with you on the rivers.

Joan Taylor

PSC Paddler A Canoe and Kayak Club, www.prairiestatecanoeists.org

2007 Officers and Directors

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Directors</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>
Joan Taylor <i>Lombard</i> 630-495-1565	Melinda Tury <i>Glendale Heights</i> 630-894-2285	Susan Halversen <i>Rockford</i>	Milt Levenberg <i>Libertyville</i> 847-680-1223
<i>Co-Chair</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	Glenn Jensen <i>Berwyn</i>	<i>Training Coordinators</i>
Jane Sprenne <i>Highland, IN</i> 219-923-2182	George Stenitzer <i>Oswego</i> 630-215-6751	Frances Peshkin <i>Elmhurst</i>	Tom Lindblade <i>Rockford</i> 815-963-5945
		Rebecca Sells <i>Sugar Grove</i>	Tom Richardson <i>Oak Brook</i> 630-832-3523
		Janice Wellborn <i>Oak Park</i>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
		Rich Rothrock <i>Hinsdale</i>	William Kessler <i>Berkeley</i> 708-547-5314
		Carlin Horbal <i>Glenview</i>	<i>Assistant Editors</i>
		John Shafran <i>Stickney</i>	Michael Collins
		Ray Ziemer <i>Warrenville</i>	Frances Peshkin

PSC Paddler is published six times yearly plus an annual directory. Prairie State Canoeists is a club founded in 1971 for paddling enjoyment of its members, with its current address of record at 177 North Adams, Oswego, Illinois, 60543.

Annual dues are \$15.00, and all applicants must send a signed copy of the application form, found in this issue and on our web site, www.prairiestatecanoeists.org.

Address corrections to Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

Newsletter Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February—March	January 1
April—May	March 1
June—July	May 1
August—September	July 1
October—November	September 1

From the Retiring Chair . . .

It is hard to believe another year has passed. This year we were invited to promote our club at a few new places other than Canoeopia. We need to keep promoting our club in order to help keep the membership steady.

As our world moves toward more electronics, PSC is trying to encompass some of this technology. As we move closer to offering e-mail-only newsletters to every member who wants to get it this way, we need

your help. Some of our members have reported trouble accessing and/or downloading and printing things from the website. If you have this problem, contact the webmasters through the link at the bottom of the web page. If they are not aware of a problem it can't be fixed.

Don't forget that the club operates on a calendar year which means your dues should be paid by or before January 1, 2007.

John Ziegler

IPC Adds Whitewater Park To Its Goals

ROCKFORD—The Illinois Paddling Council celebrated the end of its paddling season with a spectacular jamboree of more than 90 paddlers and 75 canoes and kayaks on the Rock River. The colorful flotilla gathered on Sunday afternoon, October 29 for a festive journey starting at Atwood Forest Preserve and ending at Beatie Park. This site was not a casual choice for the Illinois Paddling Council's annual season-ender: it was a show of support for the proposed whitewater park in downtown Rockford.

As the umbrella organization for paddlesports in Illinois, IPC drew paddlers from Prairie State Canoeists, Chicago Whitewater Association, Prairie Coast Paddlers, Chicago

Area Sea Kayaking Association, Stateline Paddlers, Mad City Paddlers, and Chicago Kayak to the event. Rockford city officials were on hand, and the bright, sunny day provided perfect "photo-ops" for the media.

While still in the conceptual stage, the proposed whitewater park is said to present a substantial economic potential for the Rockford area as well as an important recreational resource for paddlers in region. The IPC urges paddlers to contact the officials in the Rockford area to express their

support. The Chicago Whitewater Association web site is an excellent source of information: chicagowhitewater.org/cwa/rockford.asp.

(See trip report by Lee Butler on page 11)

Imagine being able to drive to Rockford to jump either into a playhole or on a surfing wave when most midwestern rivers are too low to run. A pipe dream? Maybe not.

Chicago Whitewater Association

PADDLERS MARKETPLACE . . .

For Sale: Dagger 15ft tandem canoe beige. \$950 new. Asking \$500 obo. Good condition.

For Sale: Center flotation for whitewater canoe. Like new; red color. \$45 obo

Joann Benedetto 224 -392-5626

PSC T-Shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available at most PSC events or can be ordered for UPS delivery by contacting Rebecca Sells via e-mail or Linda Gebhard at 630-466-7093.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

The Board of Directors voted on November 11 to present the following amendment to the membership for input. The changes to the current bylaws are: to increase the number of Board who must approve new bylaws to 2/3 of the number present at the meeting. The other change is to give the membership notice of any change and an opportunity to give input. Some of the discussion points are summarized here. Board members voting for this motion gave the following reasons: This would continue the tradition of Board members taking responsibility for decisions about bylaws. Board members have an opportunity to hear the debate on any issues and now will additionally have input from the members. Only a few folks have taken an interest in changes. It would be time consuming to handle decisions at the two membership meetings a year.

Board members voting against this motion gave the following reasons: There are members who are concerned about not having a say in bylaws changes. Many organizations allow members to vote on bylaws changes. We have the ability to communicate to our members to give them information prior to a vote.

(Current version)

Article XV Amendment to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the directors present at any regular

meeting or at any special meeting, provided that at least two (2) days written or electronically communicate notice is given of intention to alter, amend or repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at such meeting. Ten percent (10%) of the members may submit to the Board (in writing) a proposal to amend, alter, repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at the next meeting of the Board. Such meeting will be held within the provisions of this article. (Amended 10/05)

(Proposed changed version)

Article XV Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by two-thirds of directors present at any regular meeting or at any special meeting, provided that written or electronically communicated notice is given to the membership at least 30 days prior to any scheduled action to give an opportunity for members to provide input. The Board will receive the results of the member input with the agenda for the Board meeting, or before, at least a week prior to the meeting. The Board's vote will be binding.

Ten percent (10%) of the members may submit to the Board (in writing) a proposal to amend, alter, repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at the next meeting of the Board. Such meeting will be held within the provisions of this article. (Amended **/07)

In Memorium

Larry Leathers

1930 —2006

Larry Leathers was one of the earliest members of Prairie State Canoeists. He and his wife Doris were active in organizing trips and social events. Larry was a high school teacher of many talents and taught art and other subjects. Some of the artwork for club items was done by Larry. He was a board

member in 1979-80, newsletter editor in 1983-84 and again from 1987 to 1991. Larry also served as co-chair in 1995 and chair in 1996. His friend Ralph Frese remembers him as "A heck of a great guy to know and great fun on a canoe trip."

Trip Leaders' Meeting and Workshop

Saturday, January 13, 2007

1:30 PM

**Izaak Walton Home
899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL**

Note: Board meeting will begin at 10:30 AM; all members welcome to attend

The Trip Leaders' Workshop will be moderated by Joan Taylor with veteran trip leaders Tom Lindblade, Mark Morrall, Melinda Tury, and special guest Jane Sprenne on Kids' Trips. They will review the club rules and protocols for leading trips and will share their experiences from years and miles of leading hundreds of happy paddlers on canoe trips.

Before the meeting, please enter all of your trips for 2007 on the PSC web site, www.prairiestatecanoeists.org.

The annual trip leaders' meeting is your opportunity to meet other trip leaders and help develop the master schedule for the 2007 season. Beverages and snacks provided.

This workshop will be followed up by a trip leaders' orientation trip in April. It is not

necessary for you to attend these sessions in order to become a trip leader, but the sessions will be helpful.

Directions to the Izaak Walton Home, 899 Jay Street, Elgin, IL

The Izaak Walton Home is located at the end of Jay Street (overlooking Poplar Creek). From I-90, take Route 25 south for about 3 miles and turn left onto Jay Street. From Route 20, go north on Route 25 for 3 blocks (caution: follow Route 25 signs carefully), turn right onto Jay Street and proceed to the end of the street. Parking for about 30 cars on the property, with overflow parking on Harrison Street (no parking on Jay Street).



Trip Leaders:

File your trip reports on the PSC web site www.prairiestatecanoeists.org. Click on the Trip Reports link on the left side of any page. On-line trip reports are automatically forwarded to the newsletter.

Reports published in the newsletter may be

edited for length. Complete trip reports are always available on the PSC web site and contain directions for put-in and shuttle, weather and gauge conditions, and other historical and environmental information.

**Congratulations to our top paddlers and to all who got out there
and paddled!**

2006 Paddler of the Year

Al Donaldson

1070 Points

Joan Taylor	670	Bob Alexander*	140
Melinda Tury	610	Carol Alexander*	140
Tom Lindblade	430	Jim Deck	140
Ken Cole	420	Dick Fetty	140
Bill Kessler	410	Voytek Miezal	140
Rebecca Sells	390	Nan Reisinger*	140
Steve Shapiro	370	Sheila Small	140
Linda Gebhard	350	Mark Woodard	140
Fran Almquist	340	Jeff Andresen	130
George Stenitzer	310	Andy Cocallas	130
Bill Erickson*	300	Alice Deck	130
Sherri Graham	290	Richard Delezen	130
Bill Barclay	280	Bob Tyler	130
Paul Klonowski*	270	Jack Horbal	120
Steve LaPorte	250	Merri Morrall	120
John Shafran	250	Frances Peshkin	120
Peggy Jacobs	240	Rich Rothrock	120
John Ziegler	240	Joe Tybor*	120
Marilyn Ziegler	240	Susan Halvorsen	110
Paul Clifford	230	June Huffman	110
Mark Morrall	230	Bob Kirkland*	110
Sharon Colht*	220	Murray Peshkin	110
Carol Klug	220	Paul Shafran	110
Janice Wellborn	220	Evelyn Tennyson	110
Ana Donaldson	200	Larry Tennyson	110
Dan Benthall	190	Regina Watts*	110
Gail Jacobs	180	Fran Andresen*	100
Kathi Landow*	180	Douglas Bosco*	100
Claude Diez*	170	Marcelle Fahr*	100
Steve Kirchen	170	Carlin Horbal	100
Stanley Popelar*	170	Louis Igyarto	100
Gerald Emerson	160	Steve Jehle*	100
Peg Strobel	160	Glenn Jensen	100
Gary Howlett*	150	Pete Leith*	100
Tracy Hunt	150	Art Mayfield	100
Glenn Rabick	150	Brian Pavuk*	100
Ray Ziemer	150	David Watts*	100

River Rat Patches are awarded to those paddlers who reach the 100-mile mark for the first time. Congratulations to paddlers marked (*) (right), who have earned their River Rat Patches.

Many thanks and congratulations to first time trip leaders (§) (far right columns).

Trip Leaders for 2006

Fran Almquist	Ellen Johnson§
Fran Andresen§	Russ Johnson§
Jeff Andresen§	Bill Kessler
Bill Barclay	Rosetta Kessler
Dan Benthall	Steve Kirchen§
Seaby Bess	Paul Klonowski§
Lee Butler	Jerry Kolar
Alice Clifford	Steve LaPorte
Paul Clifford	Tom Lindblade
Allen Close	Paul Miles
Andy Cocallas	Mark Morrall
Ken Cole	Merri Morrall
Sharon Colht§	Frances Peshkin§
Christina Collins	Stan Popelar§
Michael Collins	Dawn Rabick
Dale Dean	Glenn Rabick
Alice Deck	Tom Richardson
Jim Deck	Grace Rothrock§
Greg Dertz§	Rich Rothrock
Claude Diez§	Becky Sells
Al Donaldson	Rebecca Sells
Ana Donaldson	John Shafran
Greg Druke§	Steve Shapiro
Gerald Emerson	Barbara Shaw
Jerry Emerson	John Shaw
Donna Fontana	Sheila Small
Larry Forgala	Erik Sprenne§
Linda Gebhard§	Jane Sprenne§
Sherri Graham	George Stenitzer
Susan Halvorsen§	David Stjern
Bill Hamps§	Mary Stjern
Bill Handler	Peg Strobel
Garry Hill§	Joan Taylor
Gary Howlett§	Evelyn Tennyson
Tracy Hunt	Larry Tennyson
Christopher Igyarto§	Melinda Tury
Louis Igyarto	Janice Wellborn§
Ruth Igyarto	Phyllis Wells
Tyler Igyarto	John Ziegler
A.J. Jabarin	Marilyn Ziegler
Peggy Jacobs§	Buddy Ziemer
Glenn Jensen	Ray Ziemer

And A Special Thanks To The Clean Up Crews In 2006

Gail Coss	Jack Horbal	Carol Klug	Ron Schwilk
Greg Dertz	Peggy Jacobs	Bobbie Kocim	Joan Taylor
Al Donaldson	Ellen Johnson	Tom Kocim	Melinda Tury
Bill Erickson	Bill Kessler	Kathi Landow	Ray Ziemer
Bob Fenger	Steve Kirchen	Tom Miceli	
Jim Hart	Bob Kirkland	Brian Pavuk	
Carlin Horbal	Paul Klonowski	Rich Rothrock	

Trip Announcements . . .**December 5, 2006****Des Plaines River**

Advanced Beginner

Andy Cocallas, 847-680-5219

Libertyville or further north, an afternoon/evening paddle along the upper Des Plaines. Last chance before snow starts sticking and the water starts freezing. Call or e-mail leader for info.

January 1, 2007**North Branch of the Chicago River**

Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

Join us for this annual tradition, now sponsored by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, draws several hundred paddlers for the two-hour float, starting at Forest Way Drive in Skokie. Shuttles from Linne Park provided by the FPDCC start as early as 8:00 AM. Watch the PSC web site for additional details.

**CONTEMPORARY SOLO
CANOEING**

- No experience needed
- All equipment provided

This class, held in the indoor pool at John B. Conant High School in Schaumburg, will emphasize basic strokes, boat control, and rescues. Classroom sessions cover safety, the paddling environment, gear and equipment, and how to get started in the sport, taught by American Canoe Association instructors. The first class is Tuesday evening, February 13, and classes continue for seven Tuesday evenings through March 27. Each session starts in the classroom at 7:30 PM, followed by paddling practice in the pool, until about 9:00 PM.

To register, contact High School District 211 at 847-755-6820, or register on line at www.d211.org > Continuing Ed, where there is also an excellent map and directions. For more information, contact Tom Lindblade, 815-963-5954.

Note to all PSC/ACA instructors: if you can help instruct this class or loan equipment, please contact Tom.

Welcome New Members . . .**Atwood, Thomas P.**

2704 Karen Dr.
Rockford, IL 61101-1840

Cooper, Karoyl

424 Hillcrest Dr
Fontana, WI 53125
262-275-0473

Fratzke, Mike

715 8th Ave SW
Independence, IA 50644

Jorgenson, Jim

2145 Horseshoe Drive
Independence, IA 50644
319-334-4635

Miller, Leigh & Harold

1116 Indian Rd
Elgin, IL 60120
847-697-1282

Phillips, Tim

618 1st Ave.
Waverly, IA 50677
319-352-8838

Spurgeon, Belvin

12 Willow Terrace
Lake Zurich, IL 60047 847-540-9638

Zurek, Elizabeth

1122 Schneider
Oak Park, IL 60302

Trip Reports . . .

West Branch DuPage River

Centennial Park, Naperville to Knock Knolls, September 20, 2006—We had a beautiful, crisp early fall day for this paddle. Three kayaks and one tandem canoe set out for a wonderful day of paddling. Numerous riffles had everyone giggling with enough water (gauge read five feet) so that no one had to walk through them. We did encounter some shallow areas where we had to do some scooting or get out for a few feet to get off of rocks. Numerous green and great blue herons, egrets, thousands of ducks (mostly mallards), lots of geese, and two deer happily munching away on someone's landscaping in back of one of the "castles" along the river! Lunch was at Pioneer Park which we had all to ourselves. Thanks to Michelle for doing the reverse car shift.

Melinda Tury

Kickapoo River , Wisconsin

September 23, 2006—The thirteen people who braved the bad weather forecast were rewarded with a beautiful weekend to paddle. The colors were almost at peak. Thanks to Frank, Marcy and Voytek for doing the car shuttles and Dick for driver return. On Saturday we had to contend with a large group of paddlers in rental canoes. Since they ate lunch at the same place we did, we ended up passing them twice. Sunday was a much quieter paddle as we didn't see anyone else on the water. Unusual wildlife seen was a mouse swimming across the river. We also saw a snake, turtles, herons, and kingfishers.

There is a new twist this year since you need to pay a \$4 per day per car parking fee when in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. All the money collected from the fees go back into the Kickapoo Valley Reserve to be used for improvements and upkeep.

John Ziegler

Wapsipinicon River

North of Dunkerton, Iowa, September 24, 2006—A wonderful river for early fall paddling. Wildlife sightings of ospreys, eagles, water snakes, river otters and one late season box turtle made up for the fact that the river was about as low as it could be and still be paddled.

Al Donaldson

Flambeau River, Wisconsin

September 25, 2006 —The North Fork of the Flambeau River is a pristine northwoods river filled with numerous riffles and rapids. The section that we did has only one Class I rated rapid. The paper mill in Park Falls has been reopened, ensuring that adequate water was available. There are no gauges on this river so you will need to contact the Flambeau River State Forest office if you are in doubt about river levels. We were kept company by a pair of bald eagles and of course, a great blue heron, plus numerous ducks of all kinds. At one of the deeper pools I spotted a sturgeon lying on the bottom – that's one ugly fish and big! The entire trip, with almost continuous riffles, twists and turns, swift water, breathtaking views, and wildlife that lets you get very close, was simply delightful and one I will definitely do again.

Melinda Tury

Michigan and Wisconsin Rivers

September 23-29—Twenty-seven paddlers from the Sierra Club and PSC participated during this five days of paddling in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Our first day was on the Ontonagan and the flowage. The Ontonagan included two class two rapids at the very end. A few portaged, one swam and most enjoyed them! Then came the big challenge of the day, which was to paddle two miles on a choppy flowage in dim light.

The second day was another challenge on the Net due to low water. The Brule has enough water, a pine forest and beautiful weather. The Deerskin was a quiet trip ending in a shower and a hike for those who hung in. The final day

Trip Reports . . .

was on the Pine in Wisconsin, which was a continuous class one and lots of fun. The day ended with a brief hailstorm and a double rainbow.

Many thanks to Paul Withington of the Wisconsin Sierra Club and Tom Lindblade for their leadership and logistics.

Joan Taylor

Wisconsin River

September 29—The last day of the Wisconsin-Michigan UP river trips, Mark Woodard and Sharon Colht took on the “mighty” Wisconsin River just below the headwaters at Lac Vieux Desert, from just below Land O Lakes at Rohr’s Canoe Landing to County K in Conover, roughly 9-11 miles. The Wisconsin River is a wonderful surprise at the headwaters. It has characteristics of the Mekan River and Badfish Creek with its twisty turning cutbacks. It meanders and runs through marshes full of sedges and grasses, then you are headed through conifer forests with white pine, jack pine, balsam and tamaracks. The water is extremely clear with a sandy bottom but tea-colored from the tannin of the tamaracks. There is a steady current, no whitewater, and sandy bluffs at some spots along the trip. There are no rocks or boulders in this section of the Wisconsin. The water is always paddleable, and there are a few wonderful swimming holes along the way. In the summer you are surrounded by a plethora of damsel flies that keep the mosquito population at bay. Mark tried out a new lure and on his second cast caught a brook trout of about eight inches, which was returned to the river.

Sharon Colht

Upper Sugar River

Belleville, Wisconsin to Cty EE North of Albany, September 30, 2006—A fine fall trip. With the leaves just beginning to turn and the Sandhill Cranes starting to gather, Mother Nature put on quite a display. We finished up just at sundown and were treated to the sight of a pair of Bald Eagles flying high and highlighted by the low rays of the sun.

Al Donaldson

Illinois River

LaSalle to Hennepin, October 1, 2006—Some water fowl, usual industrial river traffic and pleasure power boats.

Rich Rothrock

Salt Creek

Oak Brook (Graue Mill) Illinois, October 7, 2006—A blissful day on the Salt. Recent rains raised the Salt up six feet over its normal level just three days prior to this event. The Salt dropped most of its extra water in two days. However, the gauges were reading about eighteen inches higher than what is usually expected for this time of year. The current moved swiftly throughout the trip and what had been exposed gravel bars turned into pleasant riffles.

We encountered a major jam at the foot bridge in Bemis Woods. High banks made portaging here a cumbersome task. The river remained open the next seven miles. We experienced two jams at Brookfield Zoo, which will probably disappear during the next hard rainfall.

Few animals were seen, but fall colors made up for the dearth of wildlife. Our lunch stop at Brezina Woods was ideal. At the end of the trip, we agreed that this was a wonderful paddle. Adding to the pleasurable trip was that most members had less than a twenty-minute drive home.

Glenn Jensen

Nippersink Creek

Glacial Park to Lyle C. Thomas Park in Spring Grove, October 7, 2006—We had a beautiful day—bright sun, temps in the mid 60s, light winds out of the SSW, and enough water in the river to make having to walk not a problem. With the gauge reading four feet the abundant riffles made for fun play spots that were enjoyed by all! Lots and lots of migrating geese were seen and were in the ponds throughout Glacial Park with a few ducks thrown in. Other wildlife seen were red-tailed hawks, vultures, egrets, kingfishers, green herons, various songbirds, and of course, the great blue herons! We had one doe jump into the river in front of us and walk across to the other side. Other than jumping minnows and one large fish, no other wildlife was seen

continued on next page

Trip Reports . . .

continued from previous page

today. The fall wildflowers were beautiful and some of the trees have started to turn color. A wonderful day of paddling with good friends enjoyed by all! Thanks, Fran, for the reverse car shift!

Melinda Tury

Upper Cedar River

Mitchell, Iowa, October 7, 2006—Great trip, with about a three mph current all the way. With the windy weather, the only wildlife observed were a few blue herons and two eagles. One portage spot a half mile above the takeout: a floating bridge at a golf course. 3/4 of the paddlers went under it on river right, but a portage would be imperative with higher water. Limestone bluffs are abundant on the whole section of the river.

AL Donaldson

Kishwaukee River

Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve to Hinchliff Forest Preserve, October 18, 2006—We had never done this section on a Wednesday before and will not be doing it anytime soon again. No, it was not the river, just the take out—up a long and very steep hill!!!! The river was beautiful with several natural drops with nice wave trains to play in afterwards. We even had a bald eagle family accompany us down the river. The usual great blue heron was along for the paddle also. We had literally thousands of migrating flocks of geese, ducks, robins, and other birds along the way, one muskrat, a beautiful buck, an entire herd of deer that galloped across the river in front of us, an owl, several hawks, an unidentified “brown thing” running through the woods, and an egret rounded out the “wildlife seen” for this trip. An interesting experience was having the planes going over our heads at the end of the runway at the Rockford airport. The fall colors were past their peak along most the river. We had been on the river about an hour when the rain started but stayed as a light “pitter patter,” which was really quite relaxing for the rest of the day. All in all, an enjoyable late fall paddle.

Melinda Tury

Blackhawk Creek

Hudson, Iowa, October 22, 2006—The logjams between Hudson and Shaulis Road have been cleared (save for one) and this section should be navigable from flows of 140 cfs and up. One huge jam about 4.3 miles from Hudson was not removed, but was cut enough to provide a “duck under” at flows of less than 200 cfs. At higher flows, the jam may be portaged on river right.

The section between Shaulis Road and Rancho still needs to be cleared.

Many thanks to Jim Jorgenson and Dave Brooks for providing the car shift duties and to all paddlers for their hard work: Bill Denton of Waterloo, Dave Brooks of Cedar Falls, and Jim Jorgenson and Mike Fratzke of Independence.

We will finish clearing the last two miles in the next week or so. This will be an absolutely fine paddling stream when the jams of the last ten years have been cleared.

Al Donaldson

Des Plaines River

Russell Road canoe launch to Wadsworth Road canoe launch, October 25, 2006—Mother Nature favored us with a spectacular day—not a cloud in the sky, with little to no wind. Temperatures at the start were in the low 40s with a heavy frost on the ground. As the sun climbed higher, the temps rose to the low 50s, making it a perfect day. A beautiful lazy paddle down the river revealed beautiful fall colors, two Sandhill cranes (up close and personal, only about 10 feet away), a great horned owl, red tail hawks, lots of ducks and geese, a rufous-sided towhee, various other songbirds, a muskrat, one beaver, and a herd of deer splashing in the shallows. With the river so high and the leaves down from a lot of trees, it afforded us a view that is rarely seen above the cattails and shoreline vegetation. Our low night time temperatures had killed off the last of the wildflowers but left a blanket of rich russet, gold, red, and brown covering the marshes and low banks of the river. Lunch was in a field of long grass by the one river-spanning strainer we had to portage around. With lower water

Trip Reports . . .

levels someone could squeeze under along the right bank by lying down in their boat. The beaver dams were all under water so we just floated across the top of them. A wonderful fall paddle was enjoyed by all!

Melinda Tury

Rock River

Atwood Homestead Forest Preserve to Beatie Park, October 29, 2006—This trip was the IPC end-of-season paddling trip. We launched in groups of 12 to 15. There were a couple of high speed motor boats on the river also, but they were heading upstream, and not threatening our downstream space on the river.

We were told that a guy popped the Big Question on this paddling trip. She said “yes.” I hope the ceremony will take place on a river or lake surrounded by hundreds of paddling friends on a paddling trip.

Two of our friends, Alice & Varic, were not able to complete the trip. They took out at Sportscore One Park. They made arrangements with a boater to shuttle their truck and get back home safely. Alice wants to try a paddling trip again as soon as possible. We appreciated the people who did the car shift. They played a key role in the successful paddling trip.

The purpose of this trip was to support the Whitewater Park in Rockford. Please write a letter or send an e-mail of support. Suggestions for the content of the letter can be found at chicagowhitewater.org/cwa/rockford.asp

This was a very nice trip. I could paddle it 5 or 6 times a year and never get bored. There were beautiful homes along the river.

Lee Butler

Des Plaines

Libertyville, October 30, 2006—We had a nice afternoon with lots of water and some minor obstructions. Two paddlers were joined by a third partway through trip

Andy Cocallas

Nippersink Creek

Keystone Road to Spring Grove, November 1, 2006—The day started out somewhat overcast, with bright blue skies to the north. As the day progressed, the overcast part went away,

leaving the bright blue part (Oh, darn!). The high temperature was in the 40s.

We had a great water level for solo boats, and the tandem did fine, too. Some of us played a bit in the riffles, practicing eddy turns, peel outs, and ferries in both directions. A few trees partially obstructed the creek, but there were no portages. This was a lazy day, so we didn't cut any trees out.

We saw five or six red-tailed hawks, three great blue herons, a green heron, some turkey vultures, a deer, a mink, lots of mallards, and some other ducks I couldn't identify.

We collected the usual beverage containers and anglers' refuse, plus a Sharpie marker, a propane cylinder, a lawn chair, and an old broken bucket. “Hey, isn't there an old song about that?”...“Yeah, ‘My Bucket's Got A Hole In It’”...“Oh, so I can't buy no beer?”

I guess you had to be there.

Paul Klonowski

Sugar River

Nelson Road to Sugar River Forest Preserve, November 4, 2006—We had a very pleasant paddle along the beautiful Sugar River! Two canoes and one kayak had no difficulties as the river was running at 300 cfs. Areas where we have always had troubles were an easy paddle with some maneuvering which only made it more interesting. The fallen leaves revealed a landscape which is usually hidden by foliage. With the hunters out in full force, no mammal wildlife was seen, with the exception of one deer wisely hiding out in the Sugar River Forest Preserve. We, of course, had a great blue heron with us on the river, several hawks, juncos, snow buntings, a flock of late-migrating robins, and a few ducks. Thanks, Gary, for the reverse car shift!

Melinda Tury

Trip Reports may be edited for length, depending on available space. Complete trip reports may be found on the PSC web site: www.prairiestatecanoeists.org. These reports also contain complete directions for put-in and shuttle, weather and gauge conditions, and other historical and environmental information.

Prairie State Canoeists

2007 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Dues: \$15.00 if paid by Dec. 31, 2006; \$20.00 if paid January 1, 2007 or later.

____New Member: ____Renewal ____New address, phone?

Please make checks payable to: Prairie State Canoeists. Complete and sign, then send with check to: Prairie State Canoeists, c/o George Stenitzer, 177 North Adams, Oswego, IL 60543

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 MY FAMILY AND MYSELF. 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 below.

Signed Date

Print Last Name First Name

Signed Date

Print Last Name First Name

Street Address

City State/Zip Code

Phone Number e-mail address (optional)

Children under 18 (names and ages, please)

Print Name, Address & Phone # in directory? _____ Yes _____ No

Print e-mail address in directory? _____ Yes _____ No

Our Annual January Social

Hosted by Tom and Anna Croak

Yummy Bowl

Highland Park

Saturday, January 20, 2007

Meet at 5:30, Dinner about 6:00

“We have been going to this restaurant for years, and everyone we take there goes back. I think everyone will enjoy this place, and this gives us another new and different type of place.”
Tom Croak

Cost per person, including gratuity and tax, is \$18.00; cash bar. The menu will include appetizers, three chicken dishes, two beef dishes, one shrimp dish, and fried rice.

For more information, call Tom and Anna at 847-948-8794.

Directions: downtown Highland Park, east of the train tracks, one-half block north of Central (the main business street). This is east of I-94, east of U.S. 41, and then east of Green Bay Road. Go to their web site for a great map and directions.

1908 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL, 60035
Phone: 847-266-8880; Web: yummybowl.com

Planning For The 2007 Season

Trip Leaders’ Meeting and Workshop
and board meeting Sat, Jan 13

Before the meeting, please enter all of your trips for 2007 on the web site.

- January Social Sat, Jan 20
- February Social Sat, Feb 10
- Spring Banquet..... Sun, Mar 4
- Canoeopia Booth..... Mar 9–11
- Wilderness First Aid..... Sat, Mar 31
- Canoe and Kayak Training Classes
 - Intro to Paddling..... Sat, Apr 14
 - Moving Water I Sat, Apr 28
 - Moving Water 2..... Sat, May 19
 - Whitewater Sat, Jun 16
 - Intro to River Canoe Camping Jun 23–24
 - Intro to Paddling..... Sat, Sep 1
 - Moving Water 1..... Sat, Sep 15
 - Intro to Wilderness Tripping Fri–Sat, Sep 14–16
- Trip Leaders’ Orientation Trip on the Nip Sun, Apr 22
(and social at Dockers in Fox Lake)
- Summer Picnic TBA
- Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting..... Sat, Nov 10