



# PSC Paddler

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

[www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org)

Volume 39 No. 2 February–March 2007

## River and Wilderness Camping Courses Added

## Expanded Training Available for PSC Members

Prairie State Canoeists has a long tradition of providing training classes for its members, taught by instructors certified by the American Canoe Association. For 2007, five different courses of training for both canoeing and kayaking will be offered, several of them more than once. New for this year are Introduction to River Canoe Camping and Introduction to Wilderness Tripping.

**Introduction to Paddling:** (April 14, Bill Kessler, and August 25, Tom Lindblade) Paddle backwards? Me? Why? Take this class and find out more about proper paddling technique, safety, flatwater maneuvers, tips on equipment, boat design, transporting your boat on a vehicle safely, and how to get started in the sport.

**Moving Water 1:** (April 28 and Sept. 15, Bob Kane) Ferrying, eddy turns, and peel-outs are a few of the maneuvers you will master before moving on to Moving Water 2.

**Moving Water 2:** (May 19, Steve LaPorte) Hone your maneuvering skills on faster currents, sharply defined eddy lines, midstream boulders, and other features. Moving Water 1 is a prerequisite.

**Whitewater:** (June 9–10, Sandon Bate) Special equipment and extensive experience is required for this rigorous training. Contact the instructor well in advance for specific details.

**Introduction to River Canoe Camping:** (June 23–24, Mark Morrall) River canoe camping, where the next sandbar is your home away from home. Planning and map reading, gear and equipment, food and cooking, camp craft, safety on the river, and much more.

**Introduction to Wilderness Canoe Tripping:** (Sept. 14–16, Dan Benthall) Camping for three days and two nights, paddling and portaging deep into a forest wilderness. Get ready for those more adventurous canoe trips. Introduction to Paddling class

or prior paddling instruction is required.

Check the Trip Announcements in the PSC Paddler and the web site for complete details on these classes.

**Contemporary Solo Canoeing:** (Feb. 13–March 27) John B. Conant High School in Schaumburg. This class in the indoor pool will emphasize basic strokes, boat control, and rescues. Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:30 PM. To register, contact High School District 211 at 847-755-6820, or register on line at [www.d211.org](http://www.d211.org). For more information, contact Tom Lindblade,

If you have an “Urgent” message below, you have not yet paid your 2007 dues. Use the form on page 12 and send your dues by March 5 to be included in the Directory and continue receiving your newsletters.

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

## From the Chair

Prairie State Canoeists was formally incorporated in 1971, and our articles of incorporation and bylaws have served well since then, with amendments being made on only two occasions, most recently in 2005. For all of this time, our members clearly preferred to spend their time paddling and leave the administration to the board and officers. However, improvements in communication, notably the internet and our web site, have made it possible for the rank and file members to take a more active interest in governance.

After many hours of deliberation, including input from many members, it is clearly the consensus that most of us would still rather paddle, but want to be kept apprised of pending club issues. Because we do not have regular "business meetings" of the membership, bringing issues before the entire membership is awkward and almost impossible, even in this age of voting by email.

A proposed change to Article XV, the manner in which bylaws can be added or changed, was printed in the December–January issue of Paddler, and that issue is available on our web site for your review.

The amendment being proposed at this time provides that

- The Board of Directors will retain the authority to amend or add bylaws;
- The board must inform the entire membership well in

advance of any proposed action concerning bylaws (new);

- Any group of members (ten percent of the membership) may submit a proposal for adoption.

I did, however, receive a very thoughtful letter that presents the other view, which is that the members should have an actual vote. I quote from this letter so you can give your input after reading both sides of the issue.

According to your proposed amendment, it would be extremely difficult for the membership to make a change because it requires 10%, or about 50 members, to submit a proposal. However, if a *clique* were to gain control of the Board of Directors, it would be extremely easy for them to pass an amendment. I would prefer to see a system similar to Roberts Rules of Order where two members can submit a proposal to the Board for discussion, it could be submitted to the membership by mail, by ballot in the newsletter, and/or E-vote, with 2/3 of the ballots cast required for passage. Not having monthly meetings makes it more difficult, but I feel something of this nature might be better for the membership.

I look forward to hearing your ideas.

*Joan Taylor*

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 \$20.00, and all applicants must send a signed copy of the application form, found in this issue and on our web site,

Address corrections:  
call Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

## PSC Paddler

*A Canoe and Kayak Club*

[www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org)

### 2007 Officers and Directors

#### Chair

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

#### Co-Chair

**Jane Sprenne, Highland, IN**  
219-923-2182

#### Secretary

**Melinda Tury, Glendale Heights**  
630-894-2285

#### Treasurer

**George Stenitzer, Oswego**  
630-215-6751

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**Susan Halversen, Rockford**

**Glenn Jensen, Berwyn**

**Frances Peshkin, Elmhurst**

**Rebecca Sells, Sugar Grove**

**Janice Wellborn, Oak Park**

**Rich Rothrock, Hinsdale**

**Carlin Horbal, Glenview**

**John Shafran, Stickney**

**Ray Ziemer, Warrenville**

#### Webmaster

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

#### Training Coordinators

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

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

#### Newsletter Editor

**William Kessler, Berkeley**  
708-547-5314

#### Assistant Editors

**Michael Collins**  
**Frances Peshkin**

#### Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
December—January	November 1
February—March	January 1
April—May	March 1
June—July	May 1
August—September	July 1
October—November	September 1

## Instructor Training Leads to ACA Certification

Join the ranks of PSC paddlers who share their enthusiasm for paddling through teaching. This workshop at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, leading toward certification by the American Canoe Association, is the national standard for those interested in teaching others how to paddle and is an excellent way to develop high-level paddling and teaching skills. Classes are May 4, 5, 6, 26, and 27. Costs include an instructional fee plus tuition. Intermediate paddling skills are required. To register, call the College of DuPage at 630-942-2356. For more information, contact Tom Lindblade.

These members of PSC are certified as instructors by the American Canoe Association:

Henry Barkhausen  
Sandon Bate  
Dan Benthal  
Chuck Bobula  
Marge Cline  
Sherri Graham  
Tracy Hunt  
Peggy Jacobs  
Bob Kane  
Bill Kessler  
Paul Klonowski  
Steve LaPorte  
Tom Lindblade  
Mark Morrall  
Tom Richardson  
Steve Shapiro  
Erik Sprenne

## Basic First Aid for Paddlers

When you are out on the river with family and friends and a medical emergency happens, do you know what to do? If you are interested in a basic first aid course, contact Bill Kessler.

## Safety Corner, with Tom Lindblade

### Strainers May Be the Most Common Hazard on Illinois Rivers

Murray Peshkin has reported a potentially dangerous incident on a recent PSC trip involving a strainer. A swift current had carried a paddler to the outside of a bend where a downed tree trapped his boat and flipped it over. This experienced paddler was able to exit his trapped boat, swim under the strainer and emerge safely on the downstream side. The incident could have been much worse. This kind of hazard is common even on the usually friendly, benign streams of PSC trips and brings up, once again, the issues of how to prepare our member paddlers for these occurrences. Should the trip be classified for a higher level of skill? How can a trip leader assess the skill levels of the participants? What kind of on-the-spot advice will help a paddler move safely through this hazardous situation?

There is no way to avoid all dangerous situations on a river, so there are two important things you must do to be prepared. The first is to learn as much as you can about safety, river reading, boat control, and hazards. This requires some formal instruction, skill practice and some reading. Completion of the three-course PSC training sequence is an excellent way to begin acquiring the necessary information and skills. I highly recommend this sequence even if you have been paddling for years.

The second consideration is to learn—and practice—what to do when you do capsize. I have had people tell me that they have never capsized in “X” years of paddling. My response is that they are probably not learning what they need to know to be

safe. Learning how to paddle means pushing your limits, which means that at some point you will capsize. When you capsize under controlled, safe conditions, you learn the lessons of how to dress properly for the conditions, how to swim in fast water, how to avoid strainers, and how to perform rescues. The paddler in the close call described by Murray apparently did have the necessary skills to avoid the most dangerous aspects of his swim.

*[This is the first of a regular feature in Paddler and will be the basis for a discussion thread on the PSC web site. If you have a question or an experience to share, send it to Tom Lindblade]*

## IPC: The Proactive Voice for Illinois Paddlers

*Let's face it: the free-flowing rivers in northern Illinois are the playgrounds and recreation for hundreds of us Prairie State Canoeists, but we rarely give a thought to the fragile ecosystems and even more fragile political arrangements that make these streams accessible.*

For those of us who have given any thought to becoming more active in shoring up the infrastructures that support our paddling enjoyment, the Illinois Paddling Council may be the place to exercise our talents.

IPC has five major program areas:

- The Access Project works to promote safe, legal and adequate access for paddlers to Illinois waterways;
- The Athletic and Competition Committee establishes and sanctions races in the state;
- The Safety, Education and Instruction Committee works to ensure that paddling is safe and fun for all;
- The Conservation Committee promotes the preservation and restoration of our water based natural resources;
- The Events and Information Committee promotes and disseminates information on paddling related matters to organization members and to the public.

Sigrid Pilgrim, president of IPC, and Joan Taylor, chair of PSC, have issued a joint invitation for PSC members to join IPC. The issues currently being addressed by IPC include: obtaining access to Salt Creek

within DuPage County and access to Lake Michigan at Fort Sheridan, supporting the development of a whitewater park in Rockford, dedication of the Pecatonica River as an Illinois Water Trail, seeking retention of river flow gauges scheduled for elimination, establishment of a lakefront sea kayak race, expanding support to existing Illinois downriver races, extending participation in the Illinois Championship Program, co-sponsorship of waterway clean-up projects, and the publication of articles and announcements covering a host of local and national topics in the newsletter and on the IPC web site.

The IPC web site, [www.illinoispadding.org](http://www.illinoispadding.org), is a great source of information for paddlers, including links to many other paddling clubs, safety, instruction, internet resources, paddling events, and a membership form. Your support in the form of dues—only \$15.00—and energy will be a great asset in their efforts.

Mark your calendars now for April 29 when the IPC holds its annual Spring Paddling Season Kickoff, this year on the Kishwaukee River, where you will meet paddlers from many other clubs and communities.

## EPA Provides Funds for River Clean Ups

PSC received a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in 2006 for waterway clean up projects. Moneys from that fund are still available and the board of directors has resolved that the funds will be spent on such projects until the funds have all been used. Funds are available for items like trash bags, gloves, tools, trash pick up, snacks, shuttles, and items of clothing. Please contact PSC Chair Joan Taylor for approval.

### Paddlers Marketplace

PSC T-Shirts (\$12) and sweatshirts (\$20) are available at most PSC events and can be ordered for UPS delivery by contacting Glenn Jensen, 708-749-6141.

## Trips and Events

February 10

### February Social

Nick's Pizza and Restaurant  
Elgin (*see page 12*).

March 4

### Spring Dinner and Board Meeting

Alpine Banquets, Darien  
(*See page 11. Reservations by  
February 26*)

March 11

### Kishwaukee River

Beginner

Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821  
Belvidere to Cherry Valley.  
Meet at Belvidere park canoe  
launch on Appleton Rd. Carshift  
at 9:30 AM. Be prepared for  
the deadfall of an early spring  
paddle.

March 17

### Kishwaukee South Branch

Al Donaldson 319-277-3194  
Kirkland to Oak Ridge. This trip  
will depend on ice conditions  
and/or water levels. Contact the  
leader for details.

March 17–18

### St. Francis River, MO

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel  
708-386-1371  
Challenging river with difficulty  
depending upon water level.  
Through a canyon, over some  
nice drops, and chances to  
play—and it can even be run  
twice in a day. Wet/dry suits,  
helmet required. Call leaders for  
directions, put in times, etc.

March 18

### Kishwaukee South Branch Plus

Al Donaldson 319-277-3194  
Oak Ridge to Atwood Park.  
This trip will depend on ice  
conditions and/or water levels.  
Contact the leader for details.

March 23–25

### LaLou FreeStyle Symposium

Mandeville, LA

Advanced Beginner

Tracy Hunt 630-832-3538  
Learn the Art of Precision Boat  
Control, with ACA-Certified  
FreeStyle Instructors (no, I'm  
just a student at this...). The  
homemade cajun food is great  
and the instruction is fantastic.  
Carpool (?) will leave Thursday  
AM; Return Monday afternoon.  
(flexible). A good grasp of  
basic solo or tandem canoe  
skills is strongly recommended.  
Respond by e-mail (preferred)  
or phone. Pre-registration is  
required. For more information,  
*see www.laloucanoe.com.*

March 24

### Nippersink Creek

Steve Shapiro 847-253-5875  
George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
Fox Lake area. This is a nice  
easy stream to limber up those  
stiff winter muscles for the  
paddling season. Because of the  
time of year and cold weather,  
you must bring extra clothing  
in a dry bag, and PFDs must be  
worn. Canoe registrations are  
occasionally checked by DNR.  
We will paddle from Glacial Park  
to Spring Grove. Directions:  
Take Route 12 (Rand Road)  
north to the intersection with  
Route 31. Continue forward  
(now on Tyron Grove Road)  
1.6 miles to Keystone Road  
and turn left into the Park. We  
will carshift at 9:30 a.m. Bring  
Lunch. Don't forget raingear  
and water. Occasionally, this  
trip gets cancelled due to ice or  
low water. If you don't call first  
and we have to cancel you can  
not be notified.

March 24–31

### Pre-paddling the Northeastern Iowa Rivers

Al Donaldson 319-277-3195  
Near Cedar Falls, IA. For  
any who can make it, we will  
paddle, reconnoiter, and sanitize  
the rivers that will be used in the  
April trips. Water is likely to be  
high (if not icy) and paddling  
may be strenuous. Among the  
streams in consideration will be:  
Turkey, Volga, Yellow, Upper  
Iowa, Cedar, Shell Rock, Iowa,  
Winnebago, Maquoketa, Little  
Wapsipinicon and Wapsipinicon  
Rivers, as well as Crane and  
Blackhawk Creeks. All of these  
are within a two-hour drive of  
Cedar Falls, IA. Please e-mail  
if you are interested in paddling  
any or all of these dates.

March 25

### Mazon River

Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877  
E-mail or call for details.

April 1

### West Branch, DuPage River

Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086  
Carol Stream—Winfield. Nice  
trip mostly through Forest  
Preserves where the river is  
narrow and winding. We may  
start upstream from our usual  
St. Charles Road put-in, as  
water levels allow. Call leader  
for update.

Information  
about  
these trips  
is subject  
to change.  
Always  
contact the  
leader prior  
to trip.

*April 7*

**Fox River**

George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
Janice Wellborn 708-848-6026  
Yorkville to Millington. Meet in Yorkville at the Post Office on Hydraulic Street, downstream river left of Route 47 (Bridge Street). We'll have lunch at Silver Springs, and take out at Millington to make an 11-mile trip. Please e-mail the trip leaders or call if you want to paddle.

*April 11*

**Fox River**

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285  
Seba Park, South Elgin to St. Charles. Mid Week Paddle Gang Season Opener! To start the paddling season the right way we will paddle from Seba Park in South Elgin to Fersen Creek park in St. Charles followed by lunch at Salernos on The Fox 1/2 mile south on Rt. 31 from the take out. Put in 9:30 AM at Seba Park. Directions: Take Rt. 31 to State Street. East on State Street 1/2 block to Water Street. South (right) on Water Street to the park. Map available upon request. Please e-mail if you plan on attending.

*April 14*

**DuPage River, Naperville**

Paul Clifford 815-886-2554  
Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086  
Call Leaders for details

*April 14-22*

**Northeastern Iowa Rivers**

Beginner/Intermediate  
Flatwater

Al Donaldson 319-277-3194  
Near Cedar Falls, IA. Rivers to be paddled will depend on water level, paddler skill and weather. Among the streams in consideration will be: Turkey, Volga, Yellow, Upper Iowa, Cedar, Shell Rock, Iowa, Winnebago, Maquoketa, Little Wapsipinicon and Wapsipinicon Rivers, as well as Crane and Blackhawk Creeks. All of these are within a two-hour drive of Cedar Falls, IA. Camping is available in the area, as are motels and B&B establishments. Feel free to participate in any or all days of the paddle trip. Please email if you are interested in paddling.

*April 14*

**Introduction to Paddling**

Beginner, Training

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314  
Oakhurst Forest Preserve, Aurora, Illinois. Join us for this skill building session with American Canoe Association certified instructors, under the supervision of Training Coordinators Tom Lindblade and Tom Richardson. No previous experience is necessary. Focus will be on safety, efficient paddling, and basic strokes and maneuvers on flat water. Fees include \$10.00 for instruction costs. If you are not a members of the American Canoe Association ([www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)), an

additional \$10.00 is required. You will have the opportunity to videotape your paddling so you can review your technique. Bring your boat (canoe or kayak), PFD, paddle, dump clothes and a lunch. (A limited number of extra boats and equipment can be made available on request.) Contact Bill Kessler for further instructions, and please indicate whether you paddle a tandem canoe, solo canoe, or kayak.

*April 14-15*

**Tippecanoe River, Indiana**

Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296  
Louis & Ruth Igyarto  
847-587-7462

We will be paddling the river on Saturday and Sunday after a 9:00 AM (sharp, Chicago time) carshift from the campground. Directions: take I-80/94 east to I-65 and south on I-65 to US Rte 30. East on US 30 to US 35, then south through Knox to Tippecanoe River State Park and to the campground. Please bring dump clothes, cold weather gear and lunches for both days. Be sure to call the leaders prior to the trip (Thursday at the latest).

*April 15*

**Fox River**

Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821  
Algonquin to Elgin. Put in at Buffalo Park on Rt. 31 south of Algonquin Rd. 9:30 AM carshift.

*April 15*

**Mazon River**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383  
Call the leader for details.

*April 21***Du Page River**

Advanced Beginner

Flatwater

George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
Janice Wellborn 708-848-6026  
Hammell Woods to Channahon.  
Car shift at 9:30 AM from Hammell Woods Forest Preserve in Shorewood, just east of IL Route 59 and north of US 52. (The park entrance is not well-marked, so turn at the clock tower with the Roman numerals.) We will have lunch at the railroad bridge over the moving water, so you can play or have lunch. This is about a 10-mile trip down to the take-out above the (unmarked) Channahon dam. Please e-mail the trip leaders or call if you plan to paddle.

*April 21–24***Upper Peninsula MI Whitewater**

Advanced

Whitewater

Bill Barclay 708-386-1371  
Dale Deane 608-879-9280  
Depending upon weather, we will run this trip *or* the May 12-15 trip. The UP has some great whitewater rivers and beautiful scenery. We haven't done this trip in a few years because of low water, and it is time to go back. Possible rivers include the Montreal, Black, E. Branch Ontonagon, Presque Isle and others. We will paddle all four days but plan to get off the river on the last day early enough for people to drive home. Call the leaders for details regarding camping and meeting places. Wet/dry suits, helmets required.

*April 21***DuPage River**

Beginner

Ray Ziemer 630-836-0086  
Paul Clifford 815-886-2554  
Naperville to Plainfield/  
Shorewood. Call leaders for details.

*April 22***Trip Leaders' Orientation Trip, Kishwaukee River**

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314

What makes a good leader for our PSC trips? This orientation is for new leaders and is a review for experienced leaders. Car shift at 9:30 AM. After the car shift, there will be a review of the PSC guidelines and a Q&A session. We will continue the orientation over lunch. PFD, lunch, drinking water, rain gear, etc. All paddlers are invited, even if you are not yet a trip leader. Directions: take Rt 12 or Rt 31 to the intersection of 12 & 31. Go west on Tryon Grove Road to Keystone Road. Turn left (south) on Keystone to Glacial Park. A social gathering follows at Dockers in Fox Lake.

*April 22***Mazon River**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

Call the leader for details.

*April 25***Mid Week Paddle Gang**

Location To Be Determined

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285  
The river for this trip and put in times will be posted approx. one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water levels and cfs' are taken into consideration. Please check the on-line trip schedule or contact the leader for further details as they become available

*April 28–29***WI Whitewater**

Intermediate

Whitewater

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel  
708-386-1371

Oconto, Wolf, Pike, Red Rivers will depend upon water levels and paddler interests—but we would sure like to get back on the Oconto. Wet/dry suits, helmet required. Call leaders for directions, put in times, etc.

*April 28***Moving Water 1 Training**

Bob Kane 815-744-8129

Contact the leader for more details.

*April 29***Spring Paddling Season Kickoff**

Kishwaukee Water Trail

Beginner

Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500  
The Kishwaukee Water Trail Committee is planning a major paddling event. The Kickoff this year celebrates the Kishwaukee Watertrail, and is an attempt to bring together paddlers from all over the state. Come join old freinds and meet new ones. Details to follow.

*April 29***Mazon River**

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

Call the leader for details.

## Trip Reports

### Des Plaines River

*Russell Road, November 5, 2006*—It's definitely late fall: most trees are bare, & most marsh grasses are brown. There are a few trees in the river that will need to be removed when the water level goes down, but there's too much current right now to do much. There wasn't as much fresh evidence of beaver activity as we usually see, but we spotted a couple of muskrat homes in the reeds. We saw several hawks circling overhead; mostly red-tails, but a couple that were probably rough-leggeds. We also saw a couple of probable golden-crowned kinglets. The water temperature is chilly—we found a frozen backwater with ¼ inch of ice on it. A beautiful day to be on the river!

*Paul Klonsowski*

### Kishwaukee

#### Mid Week Paddle Gang

*Belvidere to Cherry Valley, November 8, 2006*—Just a “fob-you-las darling” day!!! What more could you possibly wish for—temperatures in the upper 60s in November? Well that is exactly what we had! Sunny skies, light-to-moderate winds, and enough water to make sure no one got stuck! Four canoes and one kayak, five people total, played “hooky” from life's responsibilities and had a wonderful day paddling down our beloved Kish. Today was “deer day.” We must have seen at least twenty deer all running, splashing across the river, all focused on one thing (which I will not explain—this is a family site after all!). We saw a magnificent ten point buck, chest deep in the river, who just

stood there for a few minutes before calmly walking across the river. Also seen were, of course, a great blue heron, kingfishers, ducks, geese, a bald eagle, hawks, juncos, snow buntings, and other songbirds. Lunch was on a sand bar about half way through the trip. We had Kayla along to also keep us entertained. What a wonderful dog she is!

*Melinda Tury*

### Blackhawk Creek

*Hudson to Waterloo, IA, November 12, 2006*—A bit of work has been done on the creek since the last report. The 12 miles were accomplished with no portages (due in part to the relatively low water), and the sheltered nature of the creek kept the wind from bothering us. Various hawks and one eagle put on a fine display of flying, and we spotted evidence of fresh water mussels in the creekbed (the first we have seen in this body of water.) Several log jams still need some saw work before this trip can be rated for any paddlers below “Intermediate” status, but the work on the creek is progressing. By April, it should be in fine shape (barring major flooding...).

*Al Donaldson*

### Blackhawk Creek

*Hudson, IA, November 19, 2006*—This section may now be paddled without portaging by paddlers of moderate skill level at water flows above about 129 cfs. Below that level, an occasional “drag” may be needed, especially with heavily loaded tandem boats. Good lunch stop sandbars are

located just above the Shaulis Road “ex-bridge” and near the Rancho Road bridge. We have not tried the creek at high spring flow levels yet, but we will come early April!

*Al Donaldson*

### Fox River

*South Elgin to St. Charles, November 22, 2006*—Beautiful day, slight south breeze, saw large blue heron, many other birds, lots of squirrels, paddled approximately ½ mile up Ferson creek to first riffle.

*Brad De Ark*

### North Branch Chicago River

*January 1, 2007*—Once again the Cook County Forest Preserve District did a wonderful job of sponsoring and running the traditional New Year's Day Paddle! Improving on what was done last year, portapotties were at the put in, help was at the dams, shuttle buses took paddlers from the take out back to the put in, and a hospitality tent was set up at the take out complete with hot chocolate, tea, juice, cookies, and apples! To quote Tom L., “We all felt quite pampered!” Bill Koenig deserves a big thank you from everyone who attended. Even Larry Suffredin (county commissioner) paddled down the river with Ralph Frese and his gang! Everyone seemed to have a good time and I heard of no accidents happening along the way.

*Melinda Tury*

## Tentative Trip List for 2007

The following trips have been listed on the PSC web site as of this printing. You are encouraged to add your favorite trips to this list by March 1 for inclusion in the master list, which will be printed in the Directory.

Trip leaders are the life-blood of Prairie State Canoeists. The trips you lead are the main activity of

the club and the reason most of us are members. We hope that if you are a veteran trip leader you will schedule even more trips for 2007. If you have never led a trip but would like to, here are some tips to get started:

1. Pick a river that you have paddled before, set a date, send the announcement to the newsletter editor before the

deadline;

2. If you are not confident about trip leading yet, call an experienced leader and volunteer to co-lead a trip;
3. Post your trip information on the web site;
4. Join us for the Trip Leaders' Orientation Trip on April 22.

4~ Spring Dinner Jane Sprenne	17~18~St Francis River, MO Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel	24~31~Northeastern Iowa Rivers Al Donaldson	<b>March</b>
11~ Kishwaukee Glenn Rabick	18~ Kishwaukee South Branch Al Donaldson	24~ Nippersink Creek Steve Shapiro	
17~ Kishwaukee South Branch Al Donaldson	23~25~LaLou FreeStyle Tracy Hunt	25~ Mazon Andy Cocallas	
1~ W. Branch, DuPage River Ray Ziemer	15~ Fox River Glenn Rabick	25~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	<b>April</b>
7~ Fox River George Stenitzer	15~ Mazon River Sherri Graham	28~ Turtle Creek Al Donaldson	
11~ Fox River Melinda Tury	21~ DuPage River George Stenitzer	28~ Moving Water 1 Bob Kane	
14~22~Northeastern Iowa Rivers Al Donaldson	21~ DuPage River Ray Ziemer	28~29~Wisconsin Whitewater Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel	
14~ Introduction to Paddling Bill Kessler	21~24~Michigan Whitewater Bill Barclay	29~ Kishwaukee Water Trail Tom Lindblade	
14~15~Tippecanoe River, IN Jerry Emerson	22~ Nippersink River Joan Taylor	29~ Mazon River Sherri Graham	
14~ DuPage River Paul Clifford	22~ Mazon River Sherri Graham		<i>continued on next page</i>

### Trip Leaders:

File your trip reports on the PSC web site: [www.prairiestatecanoeists.org](http://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.

<b>May</b>	5~ Kankakee River George Stenitzer	16-17~Mecan River Al Donaldson	23~Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury
	5~ Badfish Creek Al Donaldson	19~Moving Water 2 Steve LaPorte	26~Fox River George Stenitzer
	6~ Kishwaukee Glenn Rabick	19-20~Chain O'Lakes, IN Jerry Emerson	26-28~Mecan River Al Donaldson
	9~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	19~ Kishwaukee River Stan Popelar	28-30~Blue, Little Blue Rivers Brad De Ark
	12-13~Sugar River Al Donaldson	19~Fox River Clean-Up George Stenitzer	
	12-15~Michigan Whitewater Bill Barclay	20~Des Plaines River Marathon Ray Ziemer	
<b>June</b>	2~ Du Page River Sweep Ray Ziemer	9-10~Fawn and Pigeon Rivers Paul Clifford	20~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury
	6~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	9-10~Whitewater Training Sandon Bate	23-24~Intro to River Camping Mark Morrall
	9~ Du Page River George Stenitzer	10~Des Plaines River Bill Kessler	23~Fox River George Stenitzer
	9~ Kishwaukee for Children Joan Taylor	16~Blues On the Fox Ray Ziemer	30-Jul 1~Wisc Whitewater Peg Strobel
<b>July</b>	1~ Lower Fox John & Barbara Shaw	15~Canoe Orienteering Michael Collins	25~Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury
	11~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	21-22~Dowagiac River Joan Taylor	27-30~Pine River, MI Joan Taylor
	12~Des Plaines Andy Cocallas	21~Du Page River George Stenitzer	29~ Kishwaukee John & Barbara Shaw
	14~ Kishwaukee River Mark Morrall	21-22~Little Manistee, MI Paul & Alice Clifford	
	15~ All Club Picnic Peggy Jacobs	23-26~Michigan Rivers Joan Taylor	
<b>August</b>	4~ Kankakee River George Stenitzer	10-12~WI Whitewater Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel	25~ Kankakee River Sherri Graham
	4-5~Wisconsin River Sherri Graham	22~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	26~ Kankakee River Sherri Graham
	8~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	25~Canoe Tripping Classroom Dan Benthall	
<b>September</b>	1~ Introduction to Paddling Tom Lindblade	1-3~Namekagon River Sherri Graham	7-9~Midwest Freestyle Paul Klonowski
	1-3~Dowagiac Joan Taylor	5~ Mid Week Paddle Gang Melinda Tury	8-11~Current, Jacks Fork, MO George Stenitzer

- 9~ Rock River  
Glenn Rabick
- 9~ Kishwaukee River  
Bill Kessler
- 14–16~Wilderness Canoe Trip  
Dan Benthall
- 15~Des Plaines Clean Up  
Paul Klonowski
- 15~Moving Water 1 Training  
Bob Kane
- 15–16~Pine River, MI  
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
- 19~Mid Week Paddle Gang  
Melinda Tury
- 23~Upper Fox, WI  
John & Barbara Shaw
- 29–30~Kickapoo River, WI  
Sherri Graham
- 29~Fox River, Illinois  
George Stenitzer

**October**

- 1–4~Michigan Rivers  
Joan Taylor
- 3~ Mid Week Paddle Gang  
Melinda Tury
- 5–8~Pine/Little Manistee  
Joan Taylor
- 6–7~Fawn and Pigeon Rivers  
Paul Clifford
- 6–7~WI Whitewater  
Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel
- 7~ Fox River  
Glenn Rabick
- 13–14~Black River, MO  
David & Mary Stjern
- 17~Mid Week Paddle Gang  
Melinda Tury
- 20–21~St. Francis River, MO  
Bill Barclay
- 24~Mid Week Paddle Gang  
Melinda Tury

**November**

- 10~Fall Dinner  
Joan Taylor

**Prairie State Canoeists**

## 2007 Spring Dinner

**Sunday, March 4**  
**Alpine Banquets**  
8230 Cass Ave., Darien, IL  
5:30 cocktails, 6:30 dinner  
(finish no later than 9:30)

**Special Guest:**  
**Garry “Muskrat” Hill on Indiana Paddling**

Gary is one of the original organizers of the Wildcat Canoe Club in 1975, a founding member of the Wildcat Guardians, and Life Member of the Hoosier Canoe Club. Currently, he is doing research for a new river guide book for Indiana that will hopefully be published in the Spring of 2009.

Dinner served family style. Entrees will include roast beef with gravy, baked chicken, and mostaccioli with Italian sausage, soup, rolls with butter, potato, vegetable, dessert, coffee and tea. For special meal considerations, contact Jane Sprenne, 219-923-2182.

Directions: From I-55, exit northbound on Cass Avenue, turn left at the frontage road (first stoplight). Alpine Banquets is right behind the Shell gas station.

Note: Board meeting at 3:30, prior to the dinner. All members are welcome to attend.

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(Please detach and send)

Prairie State Canoeists 2007 Spring Dinner reservation form. Reservation must be received no later than February 26, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Adults                    # \_\_\_\_\_ × \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kids 6–14                # \_\_\_\_\_ × \$12.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kids 5 and under      # \_\_\_\_\_ × \$6.25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Dinner        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Prairie State Canoeists, mail to:  
Prairie State Canoeists  
c/o George Stenitzer  
177 North Adams  
Oswego, IL 60543

**Prairie State Canoeists**

**2007 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL**

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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$20.00  
Dues paid after September 1 are applied to following year.  
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

New Member  Renewal  New address or phone?  
Print Name, Address & Phone # in directory?  Yes  No

Print e-mail address in directory?  Yes  No

Would you like to receive an e-mail notice when each issue of the newsletter is posted on the PSC web site?  
 Yes  No

**February Social**

*Hosted by Linda Gebhard & Becky Sells*  
Saturday, February 10, 2007

**Nick's Pizza and Pub**

990 S. Randall Road  
Elgin, IL 60123  
5:30 PM

Order from the menu  
Pizza and Pasta and refreshments

Please let us know by the previous Tuesday, February 6th, if you plan to attend.  
630-466-7093;

Directions: I-90 west from the Chicago suburbs to Randall Road interchange (near Elgin IL), take the interchange south approximately 15 miles farther south than US Highway 20. The restaurant is on the northwest corner of Randall road and Bowes road (County Highway 17) and looks like a large red barn.

**Looking Forward**

- February Social ..... Sat, Feb 10
- Spring Banquet ..... Sun, Mar 4
- Canoecopia Booth ..... Mar 9-11
- Wilderness First Aid ..... Sat, Mar 31
- Canoe and Kayak Training Classes
  - Intro to Paddling ..... Sat, Apr 14
  - Moving Water 1 ..... Sat, Apr 28
  - Moving Water 2 ..... Sat, May 19
  - Whitewater ..... Sat-Sun, Jun 9-10
  - 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 ..... Sun, July 15
- Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting ..... Sat, Nov 10