



PSC Paddler

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

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 39 No. 5 August–September 2007

PSC Training, From Cooking to Capsizing

“...it felt good to know what to do and to be able to assist when needed.”

The recent River Camping class and trip conducted by Mark Morrall and Dan Benthall, a component of PSC training programs, provided a wonderful experience for those of us who are looking for further adventures in paddling. While many of us had some level of camping or river camping experience, it was great to have two seasoned pros like Mark and Dan bring out their well-used and loved equipment and resources for the classroom session. I learned so much from the two of them, from gear choices to cooking tips (up to this point, I have pretty much been a freeze-dried, boil-in-the-bag kind of guy). They did a great job of presenting different styles of camping, from Dan's minimalist style to Mark's traditional tents and stoves.

The river camping portion of the class was equally impressive. After spending the day paddling down the Kishwaukee River in boats loaded with camping gear, with stops to discuss map reading skills, we set up camp

and were treated to a great meal Saturday evening. We enjoyed a delicious casserole dish cooked in a dutch oven, perfect corn bread prepared on a single-burner stove, and many other dishes demonstrating different styles and methods of cooking. The rest of the evening was spent learning Z-drag methods to rescue a pinned boat, brushing up on knot tying skills, and in good conversation around the campfire.

I also want to mention this incident in which our PSC training was put to good use. Barbara and I were out on Pierce Lake on a recent afternoon with many other boats (it was a beautiful day). While paddling out in the middle of the lake, we came across two young men who had flipped over a Mad

River Adventure 16. Two young women in another canoe were trying to assist them, but they really did not know what to do and almost capsized during their effort. Barbara and I asked if we could assist. Well, thanks to the training and practice we had in PSC classes, we were able to perform a canoe over canoe rescue, helped one of the paddlers to re-enter the boat, and followed him as he paddled back to shore while towing the other swimmer. The men were probably not in any serious danger: the water was not cold, both were wearing PFD's, they did not seem to be panicking and could probably have swum back to the shore. However, it felt good to know what to do and to be able to assist when needed.

Stan Popelar, Loves Park

Sign Up Now for These 2007 Training Classes

Details in Trips and Events listings beginning on page 4.

Aug 25—Intro to Paddling with Tom Lindblade

Sep 15—Moving Water 1 with Steve LaPorte

Sep 14–16—Intro to Wilderness Tripping Pre-session on Aug 25

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

From the Chair

We are two-thirds through our 2006-2007 paddling year. I am pleased to report that we have sign-in reports for 112 trips. Three hundred and thirty-four different folks have participated in at least one paddle. More important than the numbers are the happy faces seen on the trips. As I reviewed the trips taken, I was surprised to see the number of trips taken in late fall and winter. There were 13 trips in November, 4 in December, 3 in January and 11 in March. You still have time to get out and paddle. We have many great trips scheduled and additional trips will be conveniently added to our Web site. So do come and paddle.

In June, I received the resignation of Bill Barclay as Co-Chair. I accepted it with regrets and

with appreciation for the good work that he has done. We are fortunate to have Sherri Graham willing to step up to assume the role of co-chair now and chair next year. This will be Sherri's second time in these roles. Thank you Sherri.

Our 2007 picnic was a huge success. Read more details in the next newsletter or on the Web site. I just want to say a big thanks to Peggy Jacobs for chairing the event.

Our Fall Dinner is scheduled for November 10th. Please save that date and plan to come to Lambs Farm for a splendid meal, good fellowship, annual awards, the club election and an entertaining speaker.

Joan Taylor

Call for Nominations for 2008

It is the time of year for a Nominating Committee to plan a slate for next year to elect co-chair, secretary and four board members. The committee members are Sherri Graham, Susan Halvorsen, Karlin Horbel, Rich Rothrock and George Stenitzer. If you wish to volunteer or nominate someone for a position, please contact

one of the members by August 20th. Their contact information is in the column to the right. The Nominating Committee will also be discussing the possibility of separating out the role of Point Count Administrator, which has traditionally been part of the co-chair's role. If you have ideas or comments, this is the time to pass them on to the committee.

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, <http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>.

Address corrections:
mtury@sbcglobal.net or call
Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

Newsletter Dealines	
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

PSC Paddler

A Canoe and Kayak Club
<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

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canoen1@sbcglobal.net

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Safety Corner, with Tom Lindblade

Check Water Conditions Before You Go

On a recent trip, sixty or seventy boats were expected, and the Kishwaukee was running about two feet above normal. I had been wrestling with whether to cancel the trip or not when I got a phone call. A friend called to check the river level. She said she always checks now. Eleven years ago she didn't know about high water. She and some other counselors put kids on the Kish when it was close to flooding, and a girl drowned.

It's a tragic story that could have been avoided. Weather and water levels can have serious

implications for paddlers. When I started paddling back in the dark ages, weather forecasts were available only in the local newspaper and were wrong more than they were right. If you were lucky, you knew someone that lived near the river, and you could call them to find out how high the river was. Otherwise you took your chances.

Nowadays, through the use of satellite gauges we can check the real-time level of most rivers in the U.S. on the internet at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>. You click on the river and get two graphs, one in feet and the other in cubic feet

per second (CFS). The site also gives you the average level of the river. If it is running way above or way below average, don't go. We can also get fairly accurate weather reports five days out for anywhere in the U.S. My favorite site for weather is <http://www.wunderground.com/>. By using these websites, we can plan accurately for conditions and avoid tragic circumstances like my caller went through.

[This column is a regular feature in the PSC Paddler. If you have a question or an experience to share, send it to Tom Lindblade, lindbladet@sbcbglobal.net.]

Forestry Crew Cares for Des Plaines River

Over the past year organizational changes have been made in the Operations Department of the Lake County Forest Preserve. The Forestry Crew was created and assigned the Des Plaines River as one of its primary responsibilities. Maintenance and the clearing of obstacles have been made a high priority for the Forestry Crew.

Chuck Myers, Assistant Superintendent of Natural Resources for LCFP, previously worked on the crew responsible for the river and is very happy to see it getting more attention.

In a message to Paul Klonowski, who has made a mission of the health of the Des Plaines River,

Mr. Myers says, "Thank you for the work that you have done over the years and the valuable information you provide us. Please continue to send me information about things you find on the river.

"As you are aware, it is very challenging to keep the river open through the different seasons with fluctuating water levels. I hope to have the crew back on the river later this month. We are looking at some new strategies and the use of new equipment this year. I am looking forward to getting the river fully open from Russell Road to Cook County. We are going to initially just open it enough for passage and then go

back and fully clean up the bad areas.

"Again, thank you for all that you are doing and please keep in contact with me."

Paddlers can keep Mr. Myers and his crew informed of obstacles by contacting him:

Chuck Myers
Assistant Superintendent of
Natural Resource Operations
Lake County Forest Preserves
24237 W. Ivanhoe Rd.
Wauconda, IL 60084
Phone: 847-968-3427
cmyers@co.lake.il.us

Trips and Events

August 4, 2007

Fox River

Advanced Beginner

Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

A drive through woods and prairie will lead to the put-in at Chain O' Lakes State Park. This will be a leisurely paddle in a no-wake zone. Expect to see lotus in bloom and many birds. There is a limit on the number of boats, so RSVP early.

August 4, 2007

Kankakee River

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

George Stenitzer 630-551-7827

geo4747@yahoo.com

Janice Wellborn 708-848-6026

janwellborn@hotmail.com

Paddle one of Illinois' cleanest rivers—the Kankakee—on the stretch from Bird Park down to Warner Bridge in Kankakee State Park. Some nice features along the way include rock ledges and Rock Creek Canyon, where we'll stop to enjoy the scenic view and crystal-clear water from a bridge high above the canyon. (Good facilities and hot lunch at this spot too.) When water is lower, we'll find plenty of large and gorgeous mussel shells too. Meet for a 9:30 a.m. car shift at Bird Park in Kankakee. As you head south on IL 113, go across Highway 17 at the bridge and make the first left. Enter the park upstream left of the Highway 17 bridge, then drive under the bridge to the concrete boat ramp downstream left of the bridge. We will paddle about 10 miles. Please e-mail or call the trip leaders if you plan to paddle.

August 4–5, 2007

Wisconsin River

Beginner, River Camping

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

Join us for the Second Annual Wisconsin River Luau! 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 include tiki torches and tropical beverages (with umbrellas). Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and other theme apparel encouraged. Call or e-mail for details

August 4–5, 2007

Wild Cat Rendezvous

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Joan Taylor 630 651-1565

taylorjrs@aol.com

Garry Hill

garryhill@aol.com

August 8, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

mtury@sbcglobal.net

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 back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

August 10–12, 2007

WI Whitewater

Intermediate/Advanced,
Whitewater

Bill Barclay 708-386-1371

chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

Peg Strobel

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 Sunday we will run (several times) the Wausau whitewater course.

August 18, 2007

Fox River Clean-Up

Beginner/Intermediate, Clean-up

George Stenitzer 630-215-6751

geo4747@yahoo.com

Kathi Landow 630-677-5672

rivermuse0427@yahoo.com

Montgomery to Oswego. We will clean up the Fox around Oswego, working with the Oswego Environmental Commission and the Friends of the Fox River. A \$25 prize goes to the person who retrieves the most unusual item. Car shift at 9:00 a.m. from below the Montgomery Dam (use parking lot along IL 25 just north of the Mill Street bridge in Montgomery). E-mail or call the leaders to participate.

August 22, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

mtury@sbcglobal.net

The river for this trip and put-in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water and cfs levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

Trips and Events (continued)*August 25, 2007***Intro to Wilderness Canoe****Tripping**—Classroom

Beginner/Intermediate, Training
 Dan Benthall 630-208-8249

DBthal@comcast.net

Mark Morrall

This classroom session is a prerequisite to our Wilderness Canoe Trip, which will be held at Sylvania Wilderness Area on September 14–16. This class provides an introduction to canoe tripping practices for those with little or no tripping experience. Emphasis is on wilderness skills and safety. Prerequisites: Introduction to Paddling or Moving Water I. This classroom session is 4+ hours. Topics will include safety, canoe design and construction, trip planning, canoe tripping gear, clothing and personal effects, tools and repair kits, first aid kit, “Leave No Trace” ethics, food and menu planning, packing, navigation, campsites and shelters, fires and stoves, knots and lashings, and portaging techniques. We welcome interested paddlers whether or not you can join us for the trip in September.

*August 25, 2007***Sugar River**

Beginner, Flatwater

Susan Halvorsen 815-397-5145
susanh50@tds.net

Since this is late August, there is a good possibility for low water and lots of mud and sandbars. Car shift starts at 10. We’ll do lunch at Two Rivers for those that want to stick around.

*August 25, 2007***Kankakee River**

Beginner

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

*August 25, 2007***Intro to Paddling**

Beginner, Training

Tom Lindblade 630-207-9500
lindbladet@sbcglobal.net

If you have spent most of the summer getting frustrated because you can't get your boat to do what you want it to, our second Intro course this year is an opportunity to tune up your skills and learn new ones. No previous experience is necessary. We will focus on safe, efficient paddling and basic strokes and maneuvers on flat water. Fee is \$20 (\$10 for ACA members). You will have an opportunity to have your paddling videotaped and critiqued. Please reserve a space by e-mail if at all possible. I will be in Africa July 12–August 9 and will have limited e-mail access. I will send full details on my return.

*August 25–26, 2007***Race for the Rivers and Clean Water Challenge**

Intermediate/Advanced

Charlene Waggoner
cwaggon@gmail.com

A two-day race and a one day event that combines learning about clean water with racing. There is also a Festival in St Charles, MO. (This is not a PSC trip.) <http://racefortherivers.org>

*August 26, 2007***Kankakee River**

Beginner

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

*September 1–3, 2007***Namekagon River**

Advanced Beginner, River
 Camping

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383
canoen1@sbcglobal.net

*September 1–3, 2007***Wisconsin River**

River Camping

Louis, Ruth, Tyler Igyarto
 847-587-7462

We intend to be river camping on sand bars for three days and two nights, so we will need to carry in our canoes all of the food, water, and equipment necessary to sustain us for that period. Directions: Follow I-90 (NW Tollway) north to Madison, WI. Get off at the exit for US 12 and 18 west. Follow 18 west to Dodgeville. In Dodgeville pick up SR 23 north to SR 130 north. Follow 130 until it turns into SR 133 west. Follow 133 into Muscoda. Turn right (north) and proceed through town to Victora Park, which is located along the river, just before the bridge. Meet at the Muscoda boat launch in Victora Park at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. At that time we will make the decision regarding where we will put in and take out depending on the current weather and river conditions.

September 2, 2007

Lower Des Plaines River

Beginner, Flatwater

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com

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.

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

Trips and Events (continued)

September 5, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

mtury@sbcglobal.net

The river for this trip and put-in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water and cfs levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

September 8, 2007

Eagle Spring Lake, Wisconsin

Advanced Beginner

Jerry Kolar 847-336-1187

We'll paddle Eagle Spring Lake, a channel, another lake and a crooked creek. After lunch on a scenic overlook, we'll circle back to the put-in. There is a boat limit so call for a reservation and information.

September 7-9, 2007

Midwest Freestyle

Symposium

Advanced Beginner, Training

Paul Klonowski 847-687-2477

pklonowski@comcast.net

Learn the Art of Precision Boat Control, with ACA-Certified Freestyle Instructors (no, I'm just a student at this...). Carpool will leave Thursday or Friday morning and 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! More info and registration materials can be found at: <http://freestylecanoeing.com/MFS.htm> Responses by e-mail (preferred) or phone. Written descriptions of some freestyle maneuvers can be found in Cliff

Jacobsens' "Solo Canoeing," and Lou Glaros & Charlie Wilson's "Freestyle Canoeing" books. (This is not a PSC Trip.)

September 8-11, 2007

Current, Jacks Fork rivers in the Missouri Ozarks

Advanced Beginner, Base

Camping

George Stenitzer 630-551-7827

geo4747@yahoo.com

The cleanest, clearest water in the Midwest invites you for a paddle. We will base camp at Round Springs, a campground with hot showers and laundry facilities, arriving Friday night, Sept. 7. We will paddle Sept. 8-11 along the Current and Jacks Fork, which are mostly spring-fed. We expect to see plenty of wildlife among the Missouri Ozarks, as well as gorgeous caves, springs, and spring branches to explore. To make sure you have a campsite, e-mail or call the trip leader.

September 9, 2007

Rock River

Beginner

Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821

grabick@sbcglobal.net

Put in at the River Road launch downstream left of dam. 9:30 a.m. car shift.

September 9, 2007

New Member Trip

Kishwaukee River

Beginner, New Members Trip

Bill Kessler 708-547-5314

Kslr@aol.com

Joan Taylor 630-495-1565

Taylor.JRS@aol.com

This is a special invitation to new members (and veterans) of Prairie State Canoeists to meet other club members and enjoy this beautiful river trail. We

will put in at Baumann Park in Cherry Valley. 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. Contact the leaders and let us know that you are coming. Directions: Take I-90 toward Rockford. Take the Rockford/Rte 20 exit after mile-post 61. Go east on Rte 20 a short distance and turn right at the light onto Mill Street, then left on State and right into Bauman Park. Be ready to car shift at 9:30 a.m.

September 14-16, 2007

Wilderness Canoe Trip

Weekend

Beginner/Intermediate, Training

Dan Benthall 630-208-8249

DBthal@comcast.net

Mark Morrall

We'll spend three days and two nights in the Sylvania Wilderness Area practicing the canoe tripping skills we discussed at the classroom session on August 25th. Prerequisites: Intro to Paddling, Moving Water I, and Wilderness Canoe Tripping Classroom Session. This weekend outing is limited to eight students.

September 15, 2007

Des Plaines Clean Up

Beginner, Clean-up

Paul Klonowski 847-687-2477

pklonowski@comcast.net

Jean Weeg

Exact location of this clean-up effort will be determined by water levels and trash surveys during the summer months. Details will be posted as available, or call for the latest.

Trips and Events (continued)*September 15, 2007***Moving Water I**

Beginner, Training

Steve LaPorte 630-665-5707

stevelaporte@earthlink.net

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 ferrys, 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 \$20 (\$10 for ACA members). Please e-mail and let me know you are coming. Be sure to include your address and phone number. (If e-mail is not possible call 630-665-5707.) Detailed information will be provided to anyone interested. (I will be out of town until the middle of August. Any inquiries sent during my absence will be answered when I get back.)

*September 16, 2007***Lower Fox River**

Beginner, Flatwater

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

richrothrock@yahoo.com

This section of the lower Fox River from Sheridan to Wedron (approx. 11 miles) is always interesting with beautiful rock formations. Should be a great Fall trip. The put-in will be at The Last Resort on Robinson Road at the river just north of downtown Sheridan. We will take out at Ayers Landing. There is a \$1 fee for putting-in and a \$5 fee for parking and take-out at Ayers Landing. This is a longer trip than the Rte 52 to Wedron section, which is the

second half of this trip. Car shift at 9:30 a.m.

*September 16, 2007***Chicago River Flatwater Classic**

Flatwater

Joan Taylor

Though not a club trip, our club has been invited to support the Friends of the Chicago River. Paddlers begin the 7.25 mile course at Clark Park (3400 N. Rockwell), Pre-registration cost is \$25 per adult and \$15 for paddlers under 15 years. For more info call or e-mail to 312-939-0490 ext. 15 or *kbevan@chicagoriver.org*. Info is also available on line at <http://www.chicagoriver.org>.

*September 19, 2007***Mid Week Paddle Gang**

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

mtury@sbcglobal.net

The river for this trip and put-in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water and cfs levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

*September 22, 2007*West Branch of DuPage River
Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

Kathi Landow 630-677-5672

rivermuse0427@yahoo.com

Car shift at 9:30. Call to confirm status, water level, etc. Put in at parking area for playground.

*September 22–23, 2007***Pine River, Michigan**

Advanced Beginner, Base

Camping

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel

708-386-1371

chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

Alice & Paul Clifford

815-886-2554

Pclifford38@hotmail.com

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 (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.

*September 23, 2007***Upper Fox**

Beginner, Flatwater

John & Barb Shaw 630-961-3479

*theshawsjb@aol.com**September 29, 2007***Fox River, Illinois**

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater

George Stenitzer 630-551-7827

geo4747@yahoo.com

Janice Wellborn 708-848-6026

janwellborn@hotmail.com

Meet for a 9:30 a.m. car shift at the Fox River Trail parking lot, just off IL Route 25, north of the Mill Street bridge in Montgomery. We will paddle

Trips and Events (continued)

10 miles down to Yorkville (take-out river left above the Yorkville Dam) with a lunch stop in Oswego. We may see lots of birds along this stretch, including great blue heron, egret and cormorant. Please e-mail the trip leader or call if you plan to paddle.

September 29–30, 2007

Kickapoo River

Advanced Beginner, Base Camping

Sherri Graham 630-393-0383

canoen1@sbcglobal.net

John & Marilyn Ziegler

847-742-7316

canucamp@sbcglobal.net

We'll base camp at Wildcat Mountain State Park, group site #1. Contact leaders for info.

September 30, 2007

Illinois River

Beginner/Intermediate, Scouting

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019

richrothrock@yahoo.com

We will put in at the boat launch area at Starved Rock State Park and paddle downstream (approx. 15 miles) to Spring Valley. The Illinois River should be at its best at this time of year. The majority of power boats should be off the river and river traffic should be minimal. NOTE: We will paddle with the wind at our back, so depending on the direction and strength of the wind that day, we may decide to paddle from Spring Valley to Starved Rock. Car shuttle will be at 9:30 a.m.

October 1–4, 2007

Sturgeon, Jordon, Betsy

Beginner/Intermediate, Base Camping

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565

taylorjrs@aol.com

Bill Erikson

October 3, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285

mtury@sbcglobal.net

The river for this trip and put-in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water and cfs levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

October 5–8, 2007

Pine River/Little Manistee

Beginner/Intermediate, Base Camping

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565

taylorjrs@aol.com

Bill Erikson

October 6–7, 2007

Fawn and Pigeon Rivers

Paul Clifford 815-886-2554

Pclifford38@hotmail.com

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. Car shift from campground on Saturday will at 9:30 a.m. sharp and on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday evening for an Amish dinner in Shipshewana. Directions: take I-80/90 east to IN 13. Go south on 13 to IN 120. Go east on

120 for 9.25 miles to Rte 450 west. Go north on 450 for 0.25 miles, over bridge and left turn into campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call leaders prior to the trip (Thursday at the latest).

October 6–7, 2007

Wisconsin Whitewater

Beginner/Intermediate, Whitewater

Bill Barclay & Peg Strobel

708-386-1371

chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

Kasy Culbertson 608-222-0746

This should be another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). It's time to paddle the Pike, Peshtigo, or Wolf. River selection will depend upon water levels, paddler interests, and weather. Call leader for details.

October 7, 2007

Fox River

Glenn Rabick 847-515-2821

grabick@sbcglobal.net

Put in at Seba Park downstream of State Street. Car shift at 9:30 am.

October 13–14, 2007

Black River (Annapolis, MO)

Intermediate, Base Camping

David & Mary Stjern 217-

544-2703

DStjernLaw@sbcglobal.net

John Shafran 708-788-1337

kayakerjohnshafran@sbcglobal.net

A base camping trip from the Hwy K Campground (note: there is one on either side of the river) and the plan is to paddle about 15 miles from Lesterville to Hwy K on Saturday and about 7 miles from Hwy K on Sunday. This is an exploratory trip—it

Trips and Events (continued)

has not been scouted. Mary and David would provide the main course for a communal dinner on Saturday night to anyone who lets us know in advance that they are interested.

October 14, 2007

Rock River

Beginner, Flatwater

Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com
Absolutely great Fall canoeing/kayaking. The put-in is in Oregon at the Park East Access Area, south of the spillway dam, one block north of Rte. 64 on the east side of the river. Expect rock formations and very few power boats. Perhaps the resident eagles will make an appearance. Car shift at 9:30 a.m.

October 17, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net
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 back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available. (Please note: Two weeks from this date is Halloween so we will move the next paddle up one week to October 24th.)

October 20–21, 2007

St. Francis River, Missouri

Intermediate, Whitewater

Bill Barclay 708-386-1371
chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net
Peg Strobel
This is a chance to paddle a good whitewater river in

October without worry about cold temperatures (usually—we paddled this last year in Nov at 70 degrees). Nice drops, canyons, and chances to play. Wet/dry suits, helmet required. Call leaders for directions, put-in times, etc.

October 24, 2007

Mid Week Paddle Gang

Advanced Beginner

Melinda Tury 630-894-2285
mtury@sbcglobal.net
The river for this trip and put-in times will be posted approximately one week prior to this trip after input from paddlers and river water and cfs levels are taken into consideration. Please check back to the trip schedule for further details as they become available.

October 27–28, 2007

Elkhart River / Chain O'Lakes, Indiana

Louis, Ruth, Tyler Igyarto
847-587-7462
For variety, this year we will head to Indiana for our annual "Dells" trip. We will be paddling the Elkhart River and/or the Chain O' Lakes State Park. Water levels and weather conditions will dictate which we do and when. Car shift will be at 9:00 a.m. from the campground in Chain O' Lakes State Park. Special note: there will not be an organized dinner for Saturday night, so come prepared to do whatever you desire. Directions: From Chicago, take the Indiana Tollway (I-80/90) east to Indiana Route 13 (east of Elkhart & Goshen, IN). Take Route 13 south to U.S. Route 6. Drive east on U.S. 6 to Indiana Route 9, turn right (south) onto

Route 9 and proceed through the town of Albion about three miles until you see the sign for Chain O' Lakes State Park. Turn left (east) and the park gate will be about another mile down the road.

October 28, 2007

Lower Fox River

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater
Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com
Meet in Yorkville on Hydraulic Street by the old Post Office downstream left, south of the Rte. 47 bridge. We will lunch at Silver Springs Park and end at The Last Resort, just north of downtown Sheridan. Distance approx. 15 miles. Car shift 9:30 a.m.

November 4, 2007

Illinois River

Advanced Beginner, Flatwater
Rich Rothrock 630-325-7019
richrothrock@yahoo.com
Put-in is at the boat ramp on Rte. 89 in Spring Valley. Paddling distance is about 11 miles. We will be paddling the elbow area of the river with some light barge traffic. Weather conditions will dictate the direction we paddle, as we will paddle with the wind at our back. If you like big rivers, this is a good section of the Illinois to paddle. Because of the time of year, power boats will be minimal. Car shift at 9:30 a.m.

November 10, 2007

Fall Dinner

Joan Taylor 630 495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com

New and Renewing Members

Books, Nathan

208 John Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-793-3480
nateniu@gmail.com

Carlson, Chris

2106 Woodview Drive
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-4387

Coulter, Dave

224 N. Oak Parl #2P
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-660-0674
osage59@ameritech.net

McGuan, Terry

Sarah
18031 Spring Meadows Drive
Mokena, IL 60448
708-479-5599
tmcg38@yahoo.com

Petronella, Nicholas & Megan

Putnam, Kathy
24512 Anthony Road
Marengo, IL 60152
815-568-7641
katiare@peoplepc.com

Stein, Seth & Carol

716 Elder Court
Glencoe, IL 60022
847-82-35-3806
sstein66@comcast.net

Tisdale, Glenn

Box 509
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
312-520-4850
gettech@sprynet.com

Paddlers' Marketplace

Dagger 15 tandem canoe

Beige, \$600 OBO.

Center flotation, used twice, color red, \$60. Joann Benedetto
224-392-5626,
benedettoj@sbcglobal.net

Merrimack Traveler, purchased new in 1995 and always garage stored. It's in great shape. All accessories included—paddles, PFDs, custom made oak minivan transport rack and a garage wall canoe storage system. Asking \$1,250 for the lot. E-mail dlwusaf@insightbb.com for a nice photo of the Merrimack Traveler. Dave Wilson, 309-368-9993, Galesburg.

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

14' Solo "Jensen C-1"

Mohawk Canoe, \$350.00 obo
3 paddles, "Bending Branches", 1-spare, best offer
4 Foam Car Top Pads, 1-pr. Cushions, best offer
Yakima Items, (new), 2-pairs of Gunwale Brackets #31-5003, 2-Yakima Cross bars, #8000409-58", 4-Yakima Lock Cores #7206
Will sell all together or will separate, Dennis 847-776-6855.

Wanted:

Canoe Storage in the Evanston area.
Joan Taylor 630-495-1565
taylorjrs@aol.com

Trip Leaders:

File your trip announcements and reports on the PSC web site. Click on the Trip Schedule or Trip Reports link on the left side of any page. On-line announcements and reports are automatically forwarded to the newsletter.

Announcements and reports can be sent in hard copy to:

Bill Kessler
1427 South Spencer
Berkeley, Illinois 60163.

If you need hard copies of the sign-in sheets and report forms, contact:

Sherri Graham
3s564 Haylett Avenue
Warrenville, Illinois 60555
630-393-0383

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.

Trip Reports

Fox River Clean-Up Volunteers Find Treasures in Truckloads of Trash

Montgomery, Boulder Hill, Oswego, Illinois, May 19, 2007—The Fox River runs cleaner in Oswego since volunteers plucked enough garbage out of the river to fill five pickup trucks.

Working together, the Oswego ECO Committee, Prairie State Canoeists, Friends of the Fox River, Boy Scouts and Girl Scout Troop 979 cleaned up the Fox. On a sunny Saturday morning, nearly 60 volunteers removed tires, toys, a toilet, and much more from islands and about two miles of shoreline along the Fox and Waubonsie Creek in Montgomery, Boulder Hill, and Oswego. So many interesting items were discovered that judges and jurors had a tough time determining the winner of a \$25 prize for the most unusual item found. Jurors awarded the prize to 10-year-old Jake Cerny of Oswego for finding a clear glass inkwell inscribed, “A4, Patented July 9, 1865.” On the water, Prairie State Canoeists (PSC) volunteers (19 strong) paddled

kayaks and canoes to clean up the Fox downstream from Montgomery Dam to Hudson Crossing Park. Along the way, the paddlers encountered a tree on fire on an island near the US 30 bridge. Dave Watts carried water from the river to extinguish it. Paddlers removed stray buoys, barrels, and a bowling-ball casing, among other items. Kayaker Doug Bosco found the smallest item, an intact vaccine vial with liquid still inside. Oswego Mayor Brian LeClerc and his family worked among dozens of volunteers walking along both shores of the Fox and the Fox River Trail. Volunteers bagged and hauled dozens of bags of trash next to the trail for removal. Thanks to all of the volunteers and organizations that supported the Fox River Clean-Up: Friends of the Fox supplied

volunteers, gloves, tools, garbage bags, and more; Prairie State Canoeists provided volunteers, supplies, and tools; Oswego ECO Committee donated prize money, food, and water. Thanks to Kelly Joslin for cooking up beef and vegan hot dogs; Fox Metro Water Reclamation District for supplying access to the western shore via a four-wheel-drive truck; Oswegoland Park District for hauling away five truckloads of trash; Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which provided grants to the Friends of the Fox and Prairie State Canoeists in support of the clean-up. The team leaders were John Aman, Gregg Buchner, Lisa Dicke, Kelly Joslin, Mike Wells, Kathi Landow and George Stenitzer.

George Stenitzer

Tippecanoe River

Winamac, Indiana, April 15–16, 2007—We spent two beautiful days on this very wooded river as most of the area is in the state park where we camped both nights. Friday night it rained, but by dawn it cleared and was sunny for the rest of the day. We had a great campfire Saturday night. Sunday morning was overcast with a little drizzle, and it cleared up as we went down the river. Tyler spent most of the day swimming in the river. Youth!! AJ got a workout soloing. We met some new people and spent a great time with long time friends. Thanks to shifters and return drivers.

Jerry Emerson

Nippersink Creek

Keystone Road to Spring Grove, May 4, 2007—Thanks to Sharon Colht for doing the car shift (even though she had no choice since there were only two of us on this trip). We had a very good day on the river. The weather was overcast and cool. There was plenty of water in the river. Some of the wildlife that we saw included a horned lark, red bellied woodpecker, kingfisher, Sandhill cranes, and a raccoon hiding under the exposed roots of a tree. If you run into Sharon or me, ask us about the rocks that someone set up in a pattern on the banks of the Nippersink—a miniature Stonehenge.

Bob Fenger

Badfish

Cooksville, Wisconsin, May 5, 2007—There was 30 percent chance of rain but it passed by us before we got to Edgerton. All were in high spirits and respectful of distance between boats. We saw beaver, an owl, and evidence of prior high water with the spring floods. The wild parsnip was growing and so was the nettle. Many, many birds were singing to us the whole way. This part of the trip goes by very fast. Suggest an extension to the upper section for experienced paddlers or the lower part to Fulton. New paddlers to this river all complain when we reach the takeout as it comes too soon.

Linda Gebhard

Trip Reports (continued)

Middlefork of the Vermillion

Danville, Illinois, May 5–6, 2007—We enjoyed a beautiful warm weekend on the Middlefork this year! The water level was just right, 2.1 on the gauge, and made for an interesting paddle. Everyone enjoyed the riffles, the spring flowers and some wildlife, (including a bald eagle) as we paddled from Kinney's Ford to Kickapoo State Park. Clark Bullard from Champaign joined us again this year and led us on a hike to the hillside prairie and the Indian ceremonial and burial grounds. His knowledge of the area is always interesting and fascinating as he shares it with us. The day was topped off with a trip to Ryan's Streak House for the evening. On Sunday the wind picked up a bit and we chose to paddle the Salt Fork where the higher bluffs gave us more protection. Our friends from Champaign led us to a new put-in on the Salt Fork and also shared other points of interest along the way. The lunch stop had a special rapid, due to the water level, and many enjoyed playing in it. One person even went body surfing. More of us might have joined in if the water had been a little warmer. Thanks to all who helped with the car shuttle both days. We hope you all join us again next year for more new experiences and camaraderie.

Larry & Evelyn Tennyson

Nippersink Creek

Wonder Lake, May 9, 2007—We finally were blessed with a beautiful day to paddle after being “fooled by Mother Nature” the last two times the Mid Week Paddle Gang trips were scheduled. Temperatures in the upper 70s with light winds made it a little warm going through the prairies of Glacial Park. Everyone enjoyed playing with the little riffles, dodging rocks, and spotting “critter holes” in the steep banks. The likely hole builders were Otters or muskrats, but we didn't spot any of the tenets! With the water levels very low (4.3 on the Sugar Grove gauge with only 113 cfs) it gave everyone practice in finding the correct line without bottoming out! We had a leisurely lunch at Pioneer Park and were at the take out by 2:30. Although no mammals were seen, the trilling of the redwings, the chorus of spring peepers, and the honks of the geese kept us company down the river. We saw other species such as white throated sparrows, cliff swallows, kingfishers, orioles, meadowlarks, kingbirds, and turtles. We spotted coyote tracks, phlox, violets, buttercups, lotus, lots of garlic mustard, and the greenery of prairie plants like compass plant and prairie dock. The bank down to the water level of the house on river left near the covered bridge breathtaking, covered with all colors of spring blooming phlox. All in all a very relaxing day with wonderful company!

Melinda Tury

Sugar River

Nelson Rd, Wisconsin to Two Rivers, Shirland, Illinois, May 12, 2007—Five canoes and five kayaks set out from the Nelson Road/Sugar River boat ramp on a beautiful Saturday morning. Temperatures were a bit cool but quickly warmed to the upper 60s. Light winds from the northeast made for a delightful day of paddling. The Sugar had a depth of 1.54 feet with 415 cfs, according to the Brodhead gauge, which made paddling the Sugar with all of its twists, turns, and strainers a bit more fun than usual. No one had trouble negotiating obstacles in the river. We ate lunch at Yale Bridge where five people decided to take out. The rest of us continued to paddle down to the Pecatonica, making for a much longer trip than usual. Mammals were scarce (one herd of cows), but we saw a wood duck with her brood of tiny ducklings, geese with goslings, orioles, finches, warblers, cardinals, kingfishers, various sparrows, hawks, a pair of owls, and of course, the great blue heron! Turtles were sunning themselves on logs and we had one fox snake swim across the river right as we were putting in after lunch, making for a few exciting moments! We saw violets, phlox, wild geraniums, trout lilies, privet, and lots of garlic mustard. Fishermen told us that they were catching drum. Speed boats were not a problem until we were almost at the Pec and they slowed down for us as they passed. Thanks to John, Chris, and Gary for the car shifts!

Melinda Tury

Trip Reports (continued)

Upper Shell Rock

Plymouth to Nora Springs, Iowa, May 17, 2007—By subtracting the flow of the Winnebago River (at Mason City) from the flow of the Shell Rock (at Shell Rock) we came up with a roughly calculated flow of 1300 cfs. This flow provided just enough water for paddling and half as much current compared to a flow of 2000 cfs (as we had on our club trip last month). Since the Shell Rock gauge is far downstream, this calculation is rough at best, but I'd not wish to paddle this stream at any lower flow, as the drops and riffles were getting a bit abrasive.

Al Donaldson

Winnebago River

Mason City, Iowa, May 18, 2007—A good trip, made a bit interesting by winds gusting up to 35 mph. We spotted (woke up) a couple of black-crowned night herons (we think) who appeared to be a bit irritated at our disturbing their sleep time. And we found the answer to the perennial question “How well can a canoe fly?” Let's not have to answer that one again.

Al Donaldson

Lizard Creek

Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 19, 2007—This has to be one of the premium paddle trips in Iowa for those who like fairly fast and twisty streams. The great horned owls kept us company, along with all of the usual wildlife “suspects.” At this flow level, the water in the Gypsum Mine rapids just called out “come and play.” We did.

Al Donaldson

Kishwaukee River

Garden Prairie, Illinois, May 19, 2007—It was a beautiful day: warm (80° F), moderate water levels, and a large group of 19 canoes and kayaks handled the conditions well. A few downed trees required maneuvering, but these spots were few and minor. A number of the participants enjoyed playing downstream from the old Epworth Dam where the water flows swiftly. We encountered red wing blackbirds, a red-tailed hawk, geese, wood ducks, mallard ducks, turtles, swallows and one lone heron. Thanks to Mark Morall, Susan Halverson and John Anton who helped with the car shuttling, and Mike Hemmens who helped out as sweep boat.

Stan Popelar

South Branch Elkhart, Chain O' Lakes

Chain O' Lakes, Albion, Indiana, May 20–21, 2007—Saturday the weather was perfect and the river was steady, no down-falls, but a few tricky strainers. We had a great dinner in Topeka and saw our friend Barb Duell. Sunday, we did five lakes; the wind was rough, but it was cooler than Saturday. Thanks to our car shifter and driver return.

Jerry Emerson

Blackhawk Creek

Hudson, Iowa, May 20, 2007—This was the “lowest water level” trip of the year on the Blackhawk, and all obstacles but one were reasonably clear. On the lower half of the trip, we found that someone else had been through recently with a chainsaw. Thanks, whoever you are!

Al Donaldson

Kishwaukee

Belvidere to Cherry Valley, May 23, 2007—Were it not for the wind, it would have been a perfect day! Three canoes and five kayaks paddled there way down the river accompanied by, of course, the great blue heron, ducks, geese, hawks, songbirds, turkeys, and a couple of turtles. The wind kept most of the other animals at bay. The wild phlox and geraniums were spectacular forming large patches of color along the river. Lunch was at Distillery Road with the poison ivy which was everywhere including up the trees! We had one dump caused by a miscalculation on a tricky turn but otherwise an uneventful trip as long as we watched our line (water level was so low that we would scrape or have to walk if we didn't choose right) until we were almost to Cherry Valley. The wind during that last mile into Cherry Valley made for a very strenuous workout! Thanks Frank and Jerry for the car shifts!

Melinda Tury

Fox River

Montgomery to Yorkville, May 26, 2007—On the first day of a Memorial Day weekend, our large group of paddlers felt lucky to beat the thunderstorm warnings and paddle 10 miles before the first lightning struck. We saw heron, egret, turtles and a deer running straight down the river during our lunch stop (instantly nicknamed the Jesus Deer, since it appeared he was walking on water). We had some novice paddlers along, who were greatly assisted by Susan Halvorsen, Steve Kirchen and others as they learned

Trip Reports (continued)

to maneuver tandem canoes. Thanks to Janice Wellborn and Kathi Landow for helping to lead and assisting with the car shift.

George Stenitzer

Des Plaines

Start in Wisconsin just north of Illinois, May 26, 2007—There was one difficult log over the river but with Bob Tyler's able assistance, we all got over in our boats, (except Bob). We stopped for lunch at the ridge between the lagoon and the river, nice spot. Thanks to Bob and Tom for shuttles.

Joan Taylor

Nippersink Creek

Richmond to Spring Grove, Illinois, May 26, 2007—With just enough water to run the river, and a threat of thunderstorms in the air, ten paddlers in seven boats managed to have a great day on the river. The yellow and blue flag irises are in bloom in Glacial Park, and the cows parsnip has grown to about three feet high. A thunderstorm forced us to have the lunch stop under the Pioneer Road bridge. After the lightning had passed, we continued the trip facing the slash of the rain. It was great to see three generations of the Igyarto family on the river. Thanks to Chris Maurer for the car shift.

Bob Fenger

Mecan

Dakota, Germania, Wisconsin, May 26–27, 2007—This spring-fed river always delights its paddlers with riffles, and north-style wilderness. The blue heron, Sandhill cranes, beautiful pines and twisty, "hair-pin"

turns surprised the most expert paddler. There were many low hanging trees to avoid, and a few drag-overs which slowed the trip but made us feel as though we were very, very far away from the city. The town of Germania is sleepy and unique and the Germania Dam Preserve is typical of dammed river sites. The put-in below the dam led us to a slightly larger river with fewer turns and twists but still held our attention. Several beginner paddlers came out of this trip with much better turning and maneuvering skills. Day one had forest preserve banks but day two was privately-owned banks. We lunched at a sandbar in the middle of the river to avoid trespassing. See Mark Morrall's video presentation of this wonderful river (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDSolQ7jn_A).

Linda Gebhard

Pecatonica River

Pecatonica, Illinois to Trask Bridge Forest Preserve, May 27, 2007—The Pecatonica runs through farm country. The banks are generally high enough and the trees lining the edges do not allow for any scenery other than the river itself. There were only two structures visible on this part of the river. While there are many oxbow lakes created out of the Pecatonica, they cannot be seen from the river itself. Two canoes and two kayaks headed down the river under beautiful clear blue skies with coolish temperatures. The Pecatonica is wider and deeper than other local rivers (Sugar, Kishwaukee). Motor boat traffic is a possibility, and we saw one power boat and three fishing

boats. Swallows were very busy catching bugs, and in those areas of the river, we had no problems with flies. It was great watching the swallows take food to the babies in the nests built into the mud banks. One 6' high bank had around 100 nest holes in it. Other birds included blackbirds, robins and turkey vultures. One bird was heard, but not seen, protesting the small bright yellow aircraft that looked like it was going to dive-bomb us directly on the river. None of us could identify the bird's call. Lunch stop was at the Pecatonica River Forest Preserve (concrete ramp). The lack of obstacles makes this a good trip for beginners. There is very little shade directly on the water, so plan trips for cooler days. Thanks to Lee Butler for car shifting three boats back to the starting point, preventing an extra round trip for somebody.

Susan Halvorsen

Blue River

Milltown, Indiana, May 29, 2007—Water levels were a little low requiring technical paddling but no walking. River was at 1.7 ft at Milltown gauge. Class I water with 1 or 2 Class II rapids. Lots of fun and a good learning experience dealing with precise boat control and river reading. Will be doing a return trip early fall if water levels cooperate.

Brad De Ark

DuPage River Sweep

West Branch, Du Page River, June 2, 2007—It was a beautiful day for a river clean-up; thunderstorms were on hold, and there was just enough water to float us down from below Warrenville Grove's picturesque dam and footbridge, to the green

Trip Reports (continued)

woods of McDowell Grove Forest Preserve. Although this stretch of the stream seemed pretty clean, by the afternoon we each had hauled several bags of trash out, along with the usual plastic lawn chairs, garbage cans, old tires and hubcaps, etc. Thanks to all the good-natured crew for their dedicated work, and to Melinda for car-shift.

Ray Ziemer

National River Clean-up Week —Salt Creek

Fullersburg Woods, June 6, 2007—Eight hardy paddlers put in at Graue Mill in Oakbrook and paddled approx. 3 miles up stream to the northern edge of Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. We then cleaned our way back down to the mill. We dragged out of the creek a ten foot section of a slide, lawn chairs, a fishing rod, buckets, styrofoam, cans, bottles, a plastic swan, fishing line, bobbers, balls of all sorts, all sorts of plastics from bags to tarps, a large plastic bin with lid, and a half bottle of whisky! We did manage to see one deer, a swimming mink, lots of birds, yellow flag iris, anemone, wild geraniums, phlox, and daisies. Everyone seemed to have a good time especially at the lunch afterwards at Giordano's! Thanks, crew, for a job well done!

Melinda Tury

Little Turkey

Waucoma, Iowa, June 9, 2007—The one river-spanning strainer on the upper Little Turkey has been cleared enough to allow passage at 1000 cfs and above without portaging. Wildlife was plentiful, including two large nestling eagles peering out

from the seemingly permanent nest a mile and a half below Gouldsberg Park. Below the junction of Crane Creek and the Little Turkey, the current was swift enough to allow passage of the last 7.5 miles in under an hour and a half, with no rushing. This wonderful early-summer trip would have been impossible without the torrential rains of the previous week and a half. This is a good trip for plentiful riffles, good scenery, and lots of wildlife.

Al Donaldson

Du Page River

Shorewood to Channahon, June 9, 2007—It was a nice day and fun paddle. Trees low over the water caused problems. Several people went swimming; all were fished out without trouble. This section needs a clean-up with a saw. Weird: under the railroad bridge, three dead beavers floating in and around the eddy where we usually have lunch. Wonder what killed them all at the same time?

George Stenitzer

Volga River

Fayette, Iowa, June 10, 2007—The Volga, usually a “springtime only” stream due to its steep and relatively short watershed, allowed us back on again in June! Canoeists and kayakers with cars, trucks and trailers from all over Iowa swarmed into Fayette on this bright Sunday but, due to an early start (gosh!), we met no one on the river. At 430 cfs at Littleport, the flow was just about perfect for play and skill-building, and we found the take out, at 15.4 miles, coming into view way too soon.

Al Donaldson

Des Plaines New Members Trip

Wisconsin 165 to Wadsworth, June 10, 2007—We missed it! We missed the lunch stop. This section of the Des Plaines River, through the restored wetlands, is one of the most luxurious wildlife preserves in northern Illinois, but the lunch stop, near Sterling Lake, is difficult to spot, with the only landmarks sometimes hidden by tall grass. Of the twenty-five paddlers on this trip, a half dozen of us had paddled this same stretch two weeks before with no trouble, but this time we all missed it. We stopped at a reedy backwater about an hour downstream, most of us choosing to stay in our boats for lunch. For new members Diane Hutchinson, Barry Hendrix, Doug Van Dyke, and Terry McGuan, this was a less than auspicious welcome to the PSC. However, the Des Plaines did not disappoint, with an abundance of wildlife including an appearance by a pair of Sandhill cranes. Thanks to Tom Croak, Tracy Hunt, and John and Marilyn Ziegler for their help in organizing and leading these paddlers in two groups. At the end of the trip, I announced the imminent publication of my new book, “Lunch Stops for Dummies”; several folks, however, vowed that they would never buy it.

Bill Kessler

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

Looking Forward

- Intro to PaddlingSat, Aug 25
- Moving Water 1 Sat, Sep 15
- Intro to Wilderness TrippingFri–Sun, Sep 14–16
- Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting.....Sat, Nov 10

Look for these annual events in 2008

- Trip Leaders' Meeting
- Spring Dinner
- Canoeopia
- Training Classes
- Paddle 'n Picnic
- New Members Trips
- Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting

Save This Date!
Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner
Saturday, November 10
Lamb's Farm
Libertyville

"...a splendid meal, good fellowship, annual awards, the club election and an entertaining speaker."

Joan Taylor