



# PSC Paddler

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

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

Volume 40 No. 6 October–November 2008

## Des Plaines River Clean Up

Gurnee, IL, July 6, 2008—Sunny & quite warm. River gauges at 1.93ft/14cfs (Russell Road) and 2.03ft/122cfs (Gurnee). This is a pretty good level for clearing the Gowe Park to Independence Grove section, though there were a couple of spots where less water would have been nice. We were a crew of ten: Tom & Anna Croak, Tom Eckels, Bob Vitous, Rob Ratz, Seth Stein, Jim Hart, Molly & Marie Klonowski, and myself. We cut through 6 small log jams, and picked up a lot of trash, including two tires. The second monastery bridge has a lot of debris, including a couple of large trees, stuck in it; we were able to cut safe passage through this, but in doing so, we loosened the entire left end of this jam, which floated downstream about 30 yards, and promptly wedged itself into the only opening in the next log jam. Murphy's Law! We cut safe passage through this as well, but as the water level drops, this will need more work. There are some large logs in this jam as well. The chronic obstruction ~3/4 mile above Independence Grove is again fully obstructed, and the obstruction is much too large for our volunteer crew. We portaged River Right, and

it's not an easy portage. Just below this, there is another log jam, and the better portage is River Left, though this portage is quite easy. Had we not been quite so tired from previous efforts, we may have taken a better look at this last jam. Half the crew pulled out at Rte 120, and the rest of us would have been wise to do the same. We need to focus on shorter sections for future work days, especially in warmer weather. Tom Eckels gets the award for getting the muddiest. So we currently have safe passage from Gowe Park to the obstructions just north of Independence Grove. As always, there are more than a few trees that are just about ready to fall the rest of the way into the river, all along the way. Pictures are available.

*Paul Klonowski*

## Conservation Foundation River Sweep

On September 3, PSC paddlers were among the volunteers who received thanks from the Conservation Foundation following a picnic dinner at the McDonald Farm in Naperville. President/CEO Brook McDonald acknowledged the Prairie State Canoeists continuing efforts on the DuPage River Sweep which took place the first week of June. (Kathi Landow led a group of paddlers cleaning up from Centennial Park to Pioneer Park in Naperville.) McDonald look forward to future interaction with our club and discussed joint efforts for a possible special clean-up on the lower Fox River next year.

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## Fall Dinner

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**

**The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm**

**Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois**

**5:00 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour, 6:00 PM Dinner**

See details and reservation form on page 12.

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

## From the Chair

As I write this, we are cleaning up after the remnants of Hurricane Ike and the >10 inches of rain that hit the Chicagoland area Sept 12–14. It is a humbling perspective... the rivers that we enjoy paddling and yearn to visit regularly can quickly become uncontrollable and threaten our homes, safety and way of life. The damage of the flooding is overwhelming! Even the standing water that takes time to recede disrupts our daily schedules as closed roads cause additional traffic woes. This will pass, but I am struck by the extreme contrast of what we perhaps take for granted...

If you are part of the PSCPaddlers yahoo group, you have seen the discussions about the upcoming **Dam Safety Public Hearing** the IDNR is holding. It is extremely important that as paddlers we stand up and be heard on this issue! We typically are a passive lot who

just want to be left alone and go quietly out to paddle—but current proposed changes will drastically affect our ability to enjoy our local rivers as we do now.

Numerous members have stated that they plan to attend the Public Hearing (myself included). **I urge you to take part! If you have questions, let me know.** More information can be found at the DNR web site link or check out the [pscpaddlers@yahoo.com](mailto:pscpaddlers@yahoo.com).

As the season is winding down, I find myself reflecting on how this year of paddling compares to previous years—typical thoughts... For me this has been a good season; I got out enough—had some great experiences—missed some trips I wanted to go on—but I am filling up the rest of this year and already planning for next year's trips! syotrs! (see you on the river soon)

Sherri

PSC Paddler is published six times yearly plus an annual directory. Prairie State Canoeists is a club founded in 1971 for the 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](mailto:mtury@sbcglobal.net) or call Melinda Tury, 630-894-2285

## PSC Paddler

A Canoe and Kayak Club

<http://www.prairiestatecanoeists.org>

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630-393-0383

[canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net)

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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

**Safety Corner**, with Tom Lindblade

## Technology and Communication on the Water

Knowing where the members of your group are, being able to communicate with each other and with the outside world is extremely important on a trip. Regardless of any technology we may have with us, we should always begin by relying on our tried and true procedures of always having a sweep boat paddler who is willing to be the last boat and can deal with emergencies, and a lead paddler who knows the river and makes sure that the group stays close together so that communication can take place between all boats.

Even when following the best on-water procedures, there may come a time when we need to contact emergency services. Cell phone technology offers us an

inexpensive level of protection and communication under most circumstances. Cell phones are not perfect: they don't work everywhere, and they are usually not waterproof, but they do work on most of our trips so it makes sense to have at least one or two with us in waterproof containers on every trip.

Some of our trips take us to more remote locations such as the Boundary Waters, the Apostle Islands, and Woodland Caribou where cell technology does not at present work. In these locations, we have the choice to take a chance and not carry advanced technology, or we can carry a VHF radio or a satellite phone. Recently a great new \$150–\$170 option has come

on the market called SPOT, which is a small, portable, multi-function device that acts as a satellite emergency locator, provides real time location tracking over the web (using Google Earth) to friends and family members, and allows you to send one way SMS text or email messages in areas where you can't get cellular or internet access. It should also become possible to rent one of these, and with some minor improvements, SPOT may prove to be the ultimate wilderness communication tool.

*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@sbcglobal.net.*

### Directors, Officers for 2009

Nominations are invited for PSC officers and directors for 2009. At the annual meeting on November 15, we will elect four directors and a treasurer for a two-year terms and a co-chair, who will become chair in 2010. Please feel free to volunteer your time or nominate another member to serve. The future well-being of the club is in the hands of the board of directors. Contact any board member to volunteer yourself or nominate others for a board or officer position.

### Dam Safety Public Hearing

The IDNR will host a public hearing on Thursday, September 25 on proposed new regulations outlining specifications for signs and devices that provide warnings of the presence of dams on public waters in Illinois. The proposed dam safety requirements in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 3703 are intended to enhance public safety near so-called run-of-river dams, most of which are found in northern and northeast Illinois. The regulations apply to 31 dams on the Des Plaines, Fox, Kankakee, Rock, Sangamon, Spoon, and Vermilion Rivers. The public hearing on 17

Ill. Adm. Code 3703 will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the Bartlett Park District Nature Center Theater at James "Pate" Phillip State Park, 2054 W. Stearns Road, Bartlett. Public comments will be accepted at the hearing, and also may be submitted in writing by Oct. 20 to Robert Mool, IDNR Office of Legal Counsel, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271. The proposed regulations are available on the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us> (click on the "Administrative Rules" link on the home page).

## Trips and Events

*Sat, Sep 27*

**Historical Fox River Trip  
Portage Wisconsin  
Advanced Beginner,**

**Mark Morrall  
morrall@t6b.com**

Coming soon.

*Sat, Sep 27–Sun, Sep 28*

**Kickapoo River  
Ontario, WI**

**Advanced Beginner, Base Camping  
Sherri Graham 630-393-0383**

**canoen1@sbcglobal.net**

**John & Marilyn Ziegler 847-742-7316  
canucamp@sbcglobal.net**

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

*Sun, Sep 28*

**Upper Des Plaines River  
Cleanup Paddle**

**Gowe Park to Oak Spring Road  
Advanced Beginner, Clean-up  
Tom Eckels 847-863-7046  
eckelst@comcast.net**

Put In: Gowe Park Take Out: Oak Spring Road Car Shift Time: 9:30 a.m. Please join me, the Prairie State Canoeists, and the Lake County Forest Preserve District

Water-Trail-Keeper Volunteers on a cleanup-paddle on the Upper Des Plaines River. As part of the Water Trail Keepers program, I have adopted the reach from Gowe Park, (IL Rt 132) down to Oak Spring Road. This is an 8 mile trip; this is our chance to clean up the reach after the summer-usage has ended. Our Lunch Stop will either be at the Rt 120 canoe access point or at Independence Grove Forest Preserve Canoe Launch. Please bring a dump-bag (Spare Cloths in a water-proof-bag), Sufficient Water for the day, a lunch/snacks, cleanup implements, work gloves, etc. A PFD will be required to be worn when we are on the water. Canoes and Kayaks welcome. Please RSVP to Tom Eckels: 847-863-7046 or eckelst@comcast.net.

*Sat, Oct 4*

**Evening Paddle on the Fox River  
Oswego 175th Anniversary Event  
Montgomery to Hudson Park,  
Oswego**

**Advanced Beginner, Flatwater  
George Stenitzer 630-215-6751  
geo4747@yahoo.com**

Calling all canoes and kayaks! Oswego is celebrating its 175th anniversary, including a canoe landing at Hudson Park. We will put in below Montgomery Dam in the evening (exact time to be determined) for a paddle down to Hudson Crossing Park in Oswego. We are landing near a couple of restaurants and will have a communal meal afterwards.

*Sat, Oct 4–Sun, Oct 5*

**Fawn/Pigeon Rivers  
Indiana**

**Beginner, Base Camping  
Paul & Alice Clifford 815-886-2554  
Pclifford38@hotmail.Com  
Jerry Emerson 219-662-1296**

We will be camping at Shipshewanna Amish Campground, 5.3 miles east of Rte. 13, at the corner of Rtes 5 and 120. Depending on water levels, it will be decided on which rivers we

paddle. Car shift from campground on Sat will be at 9:30 a.m. sharp, Chicago time, and on Sun when we are ready. Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday evening for an Amish dinner. Directions: Take the Indiana Tollway I-80/90 east to IN Rt 13, south on 13 to IN 120. East on 120 for 9 1/4 miles to 450 West. North on 450 for 1/4 mile, over bridge and left into the campground. Please bring dump clothes and lunches for both days. Please call the leaders, evenings, prior to the trip (Thursday latest).

*Sat, Oct 4–Sun, Oct 5*

**WI whitewater**

**Intermediate, Whitewater**

**Peg Strobel/Bill Barclay 708-386-1371  
Kasey Culbertson 608-222-0746**

*Sat, Oct 4–Mon, Oct 13*

**Michigan Rivers**

**Lower Michigan**

**Advanced Beginner, Flatwater**

**Joan Taylor 847 328-2628  
taylorjr@aol.com**

Rivers include Pine, Sturgeon, Jordon, Pigeon and maybe others depending on water levels.

*Wed, Oct 8*

**Mid Week Paddle Gang**

**TBD water levels permitting**

**Advanced Beginner,**

**Melinda Tury 630-894-2285  
mtury@sbcglobal.net**

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check back to this web site for further details.

*Sat, Oct 11–Sun, Oct 12*

**St Francis River, Missouri**

**Intermediate, Whitewater**

**Bill Barclay 708-386-1371  
Peg Strobel**

**Trips and Events** continued**Tue, Oct 14****Des Plaines River  
Libertyville****Advanced Beginner, Moonlight****Andy Cocallas 847-830-4877*****acocallas@sbcglobal.net***

E-mail for details/night paddle

**Sat, Oct 18–Sun, Oct 19****Current River, Missouri  
Big Spring Campground,  
Van Buren, MO****Beginner/Intermediate, Base  
Camping****David & Mary Stjern 217-544-2703*****DStjernLaw@sbcglobal.net***

A basecamping trip co-sponsored by Mackinaw Canoe Club from Big Spring Campground which features the largest spring in Missouri and one of the largest in the world. We hope to paddle the Current from Powder Mill to Big Spring, about 15 miles each day, although shorter distances may be available. Mary and David will contribute a main course for a communal dinner on Saturday night to all paddlers who let us know in advance that they are interested. Please contact trip leader.

**Wed, Oct 22****Mid Week Paddle Gang  
TBD water levels permitting****Advanced Beginner,****Melinda Tury 630-894-2285*****mtury@sbcglobal.net***

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check back to the web site for further details.

**Wed, Nov 5****Mid Week Paddle Gang  
TBD water levels permitting****Advanced Beginner,****Melinda Tury 630-894-2285*****mtury@sbcglobal.net***

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check back to the web site for further details.

**Sat, Nov 8–Sun, Nov 9****Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin  
Beginner****Igyartos 847-587-7462**

This year's Dells trip will be back at the beautiful Wisconsin Dells stretch of the Wisconsin River. In

the past, Mother Nature has handed us cold weather, wind, rain and/or snow every bit as often as we've had 70 degrees and sunshine. So, regardless of the forecast, come prepared for whatever she may hand us. There will not be an organized dinner on Saturday night. We will be camping at Mirror Lake State Park and leaving from there both days at 9:00 a.m. Directions: Drive north on I-90/94 to the Wisconsin Dells. Exit south onto US Rt.12. Proceed south approximately one mile to Fern Dell Road. Turn right (west) and proceed to the entrance to Mirror Lake State Park. The signs for Mirror Lake are easy to follow.

**Wed, Nov 19****Mid Week Paddle Gang  
TBD water levels permitting****Advanced Beginner,****Melinda Tury 630-894-2285*****mtury@sbcglobal.net***

The location for this paddle will be posted at least one week prior to paddle after looking at water levels in the area rivers. Check back to the web site for further details.

**End of Season Paddle on the Sangamon, October 18–19**

IPC, in collaboration with Prairie Rivers Network, Mackinaw Canoe Club members, and New Salem Canoe, invites all paddlers to join us for our annual end of season event. We will meet Saturday afternoon for a tour of the area, a late afternoon presentation by Dr. Michael Wiant, Director of the Dickson Mound Museum, a catered group dinner for anyone interested (about \$10–\$12), and a Sunday morning paddle on Illinois' first River Trail, the Lincoln Heritage Canoe Trail. Details are found on our web site, <http://www.illinoispadding.com>.

**IPC Annual Meeting at White Fence Farm in Romeoville, November 22 at 2:30 p.m.**

Plan to join us for our annual council meeting, share your paddling activities, events, stories, and let us know your concerns.

We will review our accomplishments for the year. More details to come, but save the date.

Plan to join us for dinner (\$20) in the evening followed by a presentation by Sharon Colht and Bill Erickson on their two-month voyageur paddle through Canada following the route of David Thompson, Canada's Lewis and Clark. We will post more information on our web site.

**Aurora Paddlesports Festival—July 10–11, 2009**

In support of efforts to develop the Fox River Whitewater Trail through dam modifications and removals, IPC has been invited to hold a paddlesports festival similar to Paddling in the Park. Please put the date on your calendar. We will be looking for instructors in all disciplines, safety boaters, club representation, volunteers, and anyone who would like to contribute to the program. More details to be announced, but save the date!

For more information about these or other IPC events, check out the IPC web site: <http://www.illinoispadding.com>, or call Sigrid H. Pilgrim at 847-328-0145.

**IPC News**

## New and Renewed Members

**Brown, Curt & Diane**  
8644 Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
224-766-1572  
*d.paulson@comcast.net*

**Gamrat, Theodore & Diane**  
4376 Lombardy Lane  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
847-359-8735  
*tedg2@comcast.net*

**Howe, Lawrence  
Judith Frei**  
839 Columbian Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
708-848-6328  
*freihowe@sbcglobal.net*

**Johnson, David & Lynda  
Alex, Hallie, Jack, Sarah, Ben**  
1825 Southampton Court  
Geneva, IL 60134  
630-845-8869  
*leftdraw@gmail.com*

**Johnson, Ken**  
262 Oakland Grove  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
630-279-5009  
*kenbren@comcast.net*

**Naprstek, David & Anita  
Jim, Elizabeth**  
*dnaprstek@ameritech.net*

**Severson, Carol & David**  
27855 2030 North Ave.  
Malden, IL 61337  
815-643-2157  
*davidseverson@hughes.net*

**Smith, Jr., Paul & Lynn**  
*paulynn@voyaget.net*

**Torpy, Kristin & John  
Susan, Jim, Anna, Eileen**  
9645 S Leavitt Street  
Chicago, IL 60643  
773-239-8533  
*kristintorpy@yahoo.com*

**Viebach, Hans**  
PO Box 189  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
815-485-8368  
*h.bach@sbcglobal.net*

## Paddlers' Marketplace

**For sale: Mohawk Solo 13 canoe.** Excellent condition. Purchased in 1996, but used infrequently. Green, R-84 material. Titled, current registration good through 6/30/11 For details & specs:  
*http://www.mohawkanoes.com/solo.htm*  
\$500 o.b.o Located in Des Plaines.  
847-297-5425, *rickgee@mail.com*

**For sale: Yakima Mighty Joe 3-bike car trunk bike rack.** Excellent condition. Picture available. For details:  
*http://www.orsracksdirect.com/yakima-mighty-joe-3-trunk-bike-rack-8002608.html*  
\$100 or best offer, Des Plaines  
Rick 847-297-5425, *rickgee@mail.com*

**For sale: 3 large dry bags, 2 with handles.** I don't recall the capacities, but 2 of these are very large. Will send picture if requested.  
\$75 o.b.o. Des Plaines  
Rick 847-297-5425, *rickgee@mail.com*

**Wanted Solo W.W .Canoe.** I am looking for a solo whitewater canoe either a bell Prodigy or a mad river Outrage. A well used and outfitted boat would be perfect for my limited budget.  
Scott Savage *scottssavagephotography@hotmail.com*

**For sale:** 2 sets of Yakima Hully Rollers model 4028 \$35 each (for kayaks)  
1 Thule Hull a Port Kayak carrier model 835 \$65  
I live in Downers Grove. Contact me at  
*Gerald.Ronspies@sbcglobal.net*

### 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, IL 60163.

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

Steve LaPorte  
140 Arrowhead Trail  
Carol Stream, Illinois 60188  
630-665-5707

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.

## Trips Reports

### **Mecan River, WI**

*Dakota, WI and below Germania Dam, May 2, 2008*—The owners of the Mecan River outfitters feel they are the only river cleaners of the Mecan. They had had some injuries early spring so the deadfall and strainers were way up. Day one was passable but day two from Germania on down had several full trees across river and a closed regular channel which caused us to re-route through a small high river downfall mess. Everyone seemed to survive the trip though and said they had a good time. We had good weather and pleasant company.

*Linda Gebhard*

### **DuPage**

*Shorewood to Channahon, May 24, 2008*—Fun trip. Shallow in a few spots but navigable. We did some playing, especially under the railroad bridge. It was reported that the playing was better a week ago, when the discharge rate was 500 cfs. Thanks to Steve Lichay for returning the car shifters.

*Murray Peshkin*

### **Nippersink Creek (Prep for Geocache Trip on June 7)**

*Glacial Park to Pioneer Park, Spring Grove, IL, May 24, 2008*—It was a gorgeous day for the placing of caches along the Nip in preparation for the June 7th, 1st annual, PSC Geocaching trip. Three caches were placed along this reach, ready to be discovered by eager cache hunters. There were 2 kayaks and 1 canoe with 3 very special passengers. It was a day to enjoy this creek and share it with red winged blackbirds, swallows, crane, jumping fish and a swimming branch (muskrat or beaver—although no critter was seen). The creek was also shared with many other kayaks & canoes, as well as many hikers.

*Dave Watts*

### **Wisconsin River**

*Muscoda to Woodman Wisconsin, May 24–26, 2008*—Even though the water level was up we found good sandbars for camping. The skies looked ominous several times and at one point we felt sure we would be hit by a tornado. We were not, but were blessed with pictures of the magnificent skies complete with lightning and a rainbow. We also had a treat of ice cream paddled in for the group thanks to the IGYARTO boys. No tornado and ice cream on the river! Who lives better than us?!

*Ruth Igyarto*

### **Blue River IN**

*Milltown, IN, May 25, 2008*—It was a perfect day with perfect water levels (3 feet at unofficial Milltown gauge). We negotiated the many rapids at their best (Class 1+ with one solid Class 2). Saw lots of turtles and birds. Saw a few snakes including one very realistic rubber one. Awe-inspiring scenery with huge sycamore trees, limestone half canyons, springs, and a cave. Since it was Memorial Day Sunday, we had a lot of company. The trip took 6 hours but we were taking our time. Because of weather concerns and time constraints we did not do a paddle on Monday this year.

*Brad De Ark*

### **Scouting WI rivers, Waupaca, Little Wolf, Crystal**

*Waupaca, WI area, May 26–31, 2008*—Waupaca #1 was boulder gardens, May level of water up from fall 2007 so easier to navigate in higher water yet levels were not close to April spring stage. In fall water level made for difficult maneuvers around boulders and low spots. Waupaca #2 contained several deadfall spots, with the 3 ft. drop it is still an enjoyable section. Little Wolf #1 was fast, water level medium but not close to flood in May. Many boulders covered but not low water levels of fall 2007 nor water levels of April where only

white water experts should tackle this long string of class II rapids, drops, boulder gardens. Little Wolf #2 had some boulder garden runs but not as an extended distance as #1. Chute called “The Dells” was fast, fun but not dangerous at end of May. Early April levels would make this river a much tougher run for experts. Every rapid area of Little Wolf both sections were scouted from land prior to our running it. Crystal begins in a lake within Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca, WI. Several lakes and channels between were traveled to get to the river. Wind on these lakes can make this part of the paddle rough. River channels between lakes are shallow even in spring. Once through the lakes, and channels, the river is clear, fast, and a fun trout stream which all who paddled this week would say was worth the downside of lakes, channels before. There are now more homes and landscaping along river. All put-ins and take-outs are listed in Paddling Southern WI rivers book.

*Linda Gebhard*

### **Kickapoo and Sangamon Rivers**

*May 31–June 1, 2008*—Wow; what can I say? We had two wonderful days of paddling. Friday night’s severe storms and reports of tornado touch downs passed to the north and south of New Salem leaving blue skies and great water for Saturday’s Kickapoo Creek paddle. Peg Schickedanz, Gene Grider, Scott Beard, and Mary and David Stjern were joined by PSC paddler Marcy Fahr for a very fast trip down the Kickapoo to Rocky Ford including two portages with the requisite amount of poison ivy and stinging nettles. Scott reminded us many time that he’ll never again paddle without bringing long again. The blue skies set the theme for the paddle where we observed blue herons (including a rookery), bluebirds, blue jays and an indigo bunting. Thanks to Marcy and Scott for shuttle services.

## Trips Reports continued

Saturday evening Scott fixed sauteed morels, pork in a tomato sauce and pesto pasta while David contributed minted lamb chops and a salad for a gourmet repast for Scott, Marcy, David and Brad Bucklin. As Float was not around to claim fire-making duties, Brad attempted to light a fire with his propane torch but succeeded only in charring a hole in the two-year-old dry pine.

Even with several no-shows we had 15 paddlers on Sunday when David, Scott and Marcy were joined by Alan and Carol Welch, Ron (with new and improved body parts) and Cece Wroblewski, Jan McAdams, Rich Patrick, Rob and Cindy Alexander, Rob Lewis, Carol Carr, Chris Eckstein and Dave Waugh, a 30-year sailing friend of mine. The weather was perfect with bright sunshine and just enough breeze to cool us off. The Sangamon was flowing faster than I've ever paddled it and rising as we paddled—a perfect float trip if you didn't want to work. We really didn't expect to find any sandbars with the high water but Dave Waugh's sharp eyes picked out a great lunch stop hidden behind some flooded vegetation. Scott pointed out a barred owl, cedar waxwings, bank swallows (definitely nervous with the rising water), barn swallows, Baltimore Oriels and turkey vultures perhaps hoping for an easy meal if anyone dumped in the fast moving water. Rob was really proud of his new GPS and wanted everyone to know that the trip was 10.3 miles with an average speed of 3 mph and average moving speed of 4.2 mph. After the trip we had a little social time and shared soda and some of my homebrew. Thanks to Dave Waugh and the two Robs for shuttle services and to Rob Lewis for making sure that everyone remained dry while launching in the fast current.

*David Stjern*

### Sugar/Pecatonica

*Nelson Road to Two Rivers, June 1, 2008*—A beautiful sunny Sunday with temperatures in the low 80s brought out 10 paddlers for the trip down the Sugar River. Bright blue sky, hot sun, cool breeze, and wonderful friends—what more could you ask for? The only difficulty we had was when some people took a wrong turn at the head of the island and had to do a lot of bushwacking through the numerous strainers. Everyone manage to stay “in their boat” and no portages were necessary because of the high water level (803 cfs and 2.77 feet at Brodhead). Wildlife seen was a Blackburnian warbler, hundreds of cedar waxwings, orioles, goldfinches, yellow warblers, great crested flycatcher, kingbirds, kingfishers, tree and bank swallows, nuthatches, some muskvy ducks, vultures, hawks, one owl heard, and *no great blue herons!* I don't know how we managed to make it down the river without them! The Dame's Rocket of every hue, geraniums, phlox, and violets are still blooming. We are starting to see summer wildflowers blooming like the field daisies, goats beard, and clovers. Thanks Bruce for leading the second half of the trip for me and always thanks to my car shifters!

*Melinda*

### First Annual Tacitus Hussey Memorial Paddle Trip

*Humboldt, IA to Des Moines, IA, June 1–7, 2008*—No single report could do justice to this experience, so we've asked all of the participants to “tell their own stories.” There are links on the web site to others' reports.

*Al Donaldson*

### Kishwaukee River

*Illinois, June 4, 2008*—This section of the Kishwaukee offered a varied and interesting landscape. At times narrow and wooded with multiple bends, rural then populated with campgrounds, with the river ultimately widening and straightening. Very beautiful section of the river. A little something for everyone. Special thanks to Mike (aka Dave) Hemmens and Claude Diez for handling the car shift and John Shafran for shuttling the drivers.

*Paul Shafran*

### Salt Creek Clean-up

*Addison, IL, June 7, 2008*—We had 10 people who provided much hard work and who got dirty and sweaty on this clean-up. We put-in a little before 9:30 a.m. and took out just after 1 p.m. We concentrated on the section of the creek that passed through the Cricket Creek FP and then 2 sections further south that we had observed large amounts of garbage on a previous scouting trip. Along the way we collected many bags of trash that were passed off to the local Boy Scout troop that had been working clean-up on the east shore of the creek in the Cricket Creek FP. The scouts helped us off-load some of the first bags of garbage we collected and then they moved these to a collection point in the FP. Besides the usual cans and bottles, we removed several signs, a rake used for sand traps, several light bulbs, including an intact 4-foot florescent lightbulb. We also pulled out a couple of chairs, a tire, and 2 shopping carts. Due to space constraints in our boats we were forced to leave behind several large wooden spools that may have been used as picnic tables, 3 shopping carts, and several tires.

*Steve Sinderson*

## Trips Reports *continued*

### **Nippersink New Members Trip**

*Nippersink Creek*, June 8, 2008—The Nip was flowing at about 800 cubic feet per second, four times its normal 200, but still well within its banks. We welcomed new members Bucky Clippard, Tom Hicks, and the Kravchucks, Mark, Mary, Nate, and Maggie. Bob Graham and Al Wroblaski were assigned as lead boats. We all waited out a thunderstorm before setting off, but another, very violent thunderstorm caught us 20 minutes later and we could do nothing but hunker down in a very exposed prairie area for the duration. Thanks to Bucky Clippard for shuttling the family back to their van and dry clothes. The creek through the wooded section was choked with strainers, made more challenging by the high water. We fully expected everyone to call it quits at the lunch stop, but everyone, even the kids, elected to go on. Thanks to other veteran paddlers like Mike Rzepica and Ken Schenatzki, everyone made it through the final leg safely, but the Nip at this level is definitely an intermediate skill level challenge.

*Bill Kessler*

### **Fawn and Pigeon Rivers**

*Indiana*, June 8–9, 2008—Saturday on the Fawn River we all marveled at how clear and clean the river was. We saw numerous deer, duck, herons, some beavers and a muskrat. A special thanks to Noretta Emerson for car shifting us. Sunday on the pigeon was a different story. We had to work to get through, under, and over down-fall on the river. Thanks to Greg Druke for car shifting.

*Paul Clifford*

### **South Branch, Kishwaukee River**

*Kirkland to Oakridge*, June 18, 2008—A picture perfect day on the river—blue sky, temps in the 70s, light to moderate breezes, flow of 290 cfs and a depth of 3.15 feet made a wonderful paddle. Ten boats set off down the river knowing that

there would probably be lots of new strainers to contend with. The normal blockage at the head of the island in McQueen Forest preserve was negotiated with much help from all but the normally clear left channel is now totally blocked by a large downed tree in a deep water spot making any attempt at portage quite difficult. The right channel requires good boat handling skills but at this water level was manageable without having to portage; any lower and we would have had to portage around quite a few spots. After that, all was paddled around without much difficulty, although there were quite a few newly downed trees. We had two “accidental swimmings” during the trip with no one worse for the wear! Wildlife sightings included a very large owl, vultures, hawks, indigo buntings, cedar waxwings, orioles, cardinals, goldfinches, killdeer, squirrels, chipmunks, and of course, the great blue heron. Not to many wildflowers were seen as the banks of the South Kish are heavily forested but we did see sweet clover, pasture roses, forget-me-nots, chicory, Queen Anne’s lace, hawk weed, chokecherry, and privet blooming. Much thanks to John and Bruce for the car shift help.

*Melinda Tury*

### **Mecan & Waupaca River, WI**

*near Princeton, WI*, June 20–22, 2008—While we passed many flooded unpaddleable rivers to the south on the drive up, including the Fox and Monticello in the area where we camped, the Mecan and Waupaca were blissfully normal. Since they are in a different watershed we experienced normal water levels on the Mecan (no walking). Water levels on the Waupaca were low, some walking, with the water too low to paddle little rapids at the takeout. The Waupaca like the Mecan are very clean, narrow, intimate spring fed (very cold) rivers which feel like a million miles from home. The winding Mecan was surprisingly

free of deadfall, though not much wildlife was seen this trip. On the Waupaca, there are lots of huge rock gardens, which gave a change of pace, with lots of fish jumping fish, crawfish, frogs, giant turtles, herons, riffles, and a covered bridge. Thanks to Joe Tybor for car shifts and the wonderful lunch.

*Regina Watts*

### **Kishwaukee - North**

*County Line Road to Red Horse Bend on Laurenceville Road*, June 28, 2008—A beautiful day to paddle on one of my most favorite stretches of the Kishwaukee River. Thanks to conservation easements and forest preserves we felt like we were out in the middle of nowhere! The river depth was 2.19 feet but, with a flow of 527 cfs, there was some scraping but no one had to get out and walk. Good boat handling skills were needed in a few areas but everyone made it through with no problems. We did not encounter any river-spanning strainers requiring portaging. Lunch was on a sand/gravel bar at the head of an island where some people went swimming to cool off. With this large group we did not see much wildlife but bird life was abundant. We spotted lots of kingfishers, orioles, robins, cardinals, of course, the great blue heron, black ducks, and a wood thrush that sang its beautiful song as we went by. Since the banks are mostly wooded the wildflowers spotted were limited to field daisies, yarrow, chicory, strawberries, thistle, compass plant, cow parsnip, morning glory including a pretty pink and white striped one, and buttercups. Mother Nature was kind to us and held off the storms until we had gotten off the river although the sky was black and we could hear thunder. Most of us were loaded before the storm broke but my car shifters got soaked. Much thanks to my car shifters Laurie, Sherri, and Murray for “above and beyond the call of duty” service!

*Melinda Tury*

## Trips Reports continued

### Sugar River

*Bellville, Wisconsin, June 28, 2008*—Many, many portages around downfall and dragging over strainers, the bugs were horrible, then it stormed on us. All in all, a pretty nice day.

*Mark Morrall*

### White River

*Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, June 29, 2008*—A great day of paddling, decent weather for the most part. We had great fun running the rapids under the bridge, most paddlers portaged back up and ran it over and over.

*Mark Morrall*

### Badfish Creek

*Cooksville Wisconsin, July 4, 2008*—We ate lunch at the Riley Road bridge. There is a pull-over strainer just upstream from this bridge. Another hugely successful day of filming, thanks for everyone's patience.

*Mark Morrall*

### Nippersink Creek

*Wonder Lake To Spring Grove, July 4, 2008*—Weather was perfect. 77 degrees and sunny, with a slight breeze. The water level was up, from the rains we had two nights before. We had four people in three boats on this July 4th trip on the Nippersink Creek. We saw some beaver swimming in the water. A green heron was showing us the way down the river, by flying thirty feet and landing on a log in the river. He would repeat the process when we came close to him. This particular heron was braver than most, and let us closer than I have ever been to one. We also saw scarlet tanager. The yellow irises and milkweed are in bloom. Thanks to Alan Garrow for the car shift.

*Bob Fenger*

### Fox River

*Yorkville to Millington, July 13, 2008*—Great day, great group. At 31 paddlers, this was an unusually large but terrific group of people to paddle with. We had several new members, and several guests. All very capable paddlers. The water was higher than usual, which meant no scraping bottom, anywhere. The riffles at the mill were a bit challenging. At this water level, the obstacles were a little hard to see, so we did have one swim. Many thanks to those who helped our paddler reunite with his gear, and thanks to all the rest for staying out of the way. Kathi, Francene, and Jeff were appreciated for stepping in to help me co-lead this group. And a very special thanks to Kathi for volunteering to be the much needed sweep. Also appreciated were the several car shifters, and to John for agreeing to be leader of this pack of paddlers. Lots of fun, even with a pretty strong headwind. See you all next time.

*Janice Wellborn*

### Des Plaines

*Russell Road to Wadsworth Road, July 16, 2008*—On a very hot and humid day, 10 paddlers in 8 boats set off for a lazy paddle down the Des Plaines. The water level at 5.06 feet with a cfs of 218 gave us a "new view" of the river as we paddled along. No river-spanning blockages were encountered along the way. Herons, egrets, and songbirds were abundant but the wildflowers were seen only at the put in. Lots of minnows were seen but the big carp must have been hiding out in the deeper water. Lunch was on the rocks under the second forest preserve bridge in the shade. Much thanks to Gordon and Bruce for the car shift.

*Melinda Tury*

### Kickapoo/Wisconsin/Mississippi / Wyalusing

*Southwest Wisconsin, July 18–20, 2008*—The River is the Boss. If that isn't a saying, it probably should be. We had planned to launch on the Kickapoo River above Wauzeka, paddle to the Wisconsin river then on to the Mississippi, then paddle the Wyalusing Canoe Trail. Then a couple of months ago, there was massive flooding in the Kickapoo River Valley, followed by a serious wind storm. The net result was that the Kickapoo River was likely to be choked with log jams. No problem; we'll just launch on the Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River was running high (12,000 cfs at the Muscoda station), so the likelihood was that there would be no exposed sandbars for us to camp on. No problem; we'll just camp on the mainland and do the trip as day trips. The weather forecast included a 40% chance of rain and thunderstorms every day. For Saturday, they added hail and damaging wind. No problem; we'll just spot cars at various points along our route, so we will have bail-out options. So what happened? We had three mostly sunny days with highs in the low 80s and a light breeze. We had a great time. Day 1: We launched from Muscoda. Before we were even on the water, we got our first wildlife sighting—a small water snake. Shortly after launching, we came upon three sandhill cranes on an island, but unlike most, they let us get fairly close. We continued down to Boscobel, with the river doing most of the work, seeing various birds along the way, including some bald eagles, some juvenile bald eagles and kingfishers. We spent the night back at Victoria Park, where we were lulled to sleep by whippoorwills, and woken up the next morning by a woodpecker. Day 2: We decided to paddle from Woodman to Bridgeport. The weather forecast was worrisome, so we spotted a car at Millville. As it turned out, the weather was near perfect. Wildlife sightings included

Trips Reports *continued*

more eagles, more kingfishers and an otter. We spent the night at Wyalusing State Park. Day 3: We launched at Bridgeport, paddled the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi River, then into the backwaters along the Wyalusing Canoe Trail. The Wisconsin was incredibly lush; we saw more eagles, turtles, a couple of huge fish and some herons. The Mississippi was pretty much what you would expect. The Wyalusing Canoe Trail was lush bayou, and probably due to the recent flooding, we had it almost to ourselves. The only wildlife we noticed was a couple of herons, although we did see the handiwork of beavers. The trip was over long before anyone was ready for it to be over. Throughout the trip, the rivers were high and fast. There were virtually no sandbars suitable for camping, but on the other hand, we didn't have to stay in channels to avoid grounding. We also had an unusual problem, in that we had to lengthen our trip, just so our days would last more than a couple of hours. This we did, and a great time was had by all. Thanks to everyone whose flexibility made it possible to make lemonade out of the lemons. Pretty much everybody took his turn doing the car shift or driver return, but special thanks go to Chuck Christensen, who by reason of having a back seat, did the lion's share.

*Steve LaPorte*

**Pine River**

*Michigan*, July 18–20, 2008—Paddlers enjoyed the “new” Pine. Although some of us had paddled the Pine many times, this was a new experience due to a major record-setting flood in June. Changes included washed-out banks and docks, shifting of log gardens and most spectacular was the disappearance of the huge rock between Peterson and Low Bridge that has given flat water paddlers a challenge the last few years. Local outfitters have spent many, many

hours clearing the way.

*Joan Taylor*

**Kishwaukee River**

*Cherry Valley*, July 20–8, 2008—Due to higher than usual water level for this time of the year the river was moving faster than usual and along with the size of the group we asked John and Mary Puskar to co-lead. Several new club members came and enjoyed one of the club's favorite trips. Special thanks go out to the carshiffters Paul Wooden, Bob Fenger, Tom Croak, and Janice Wellborn who also served as sweep along with Bob Graham.

*John Shaw*

**Des Plaines River**

*Russell, IL to Gurnee.*, July 26, 2008—The water level on the Des Plaines river has dropped considerably in one week. If there was no rain in the following week, this section would not be able to be paddled. I had two kayakers show, plus myself in a canoe. We paddled 12 miles with very little current. Some of the strainers that could be paddled over the previous week had to be lifted over. It was still a good day on the river. I will be sure to run this again in higher water.

*Bob Fenger*

**Rock River to Grand Detour  
John Deere Historic site**

*Castle Rock, S.P. to Grand Detour*, August 2, 2008—We actually began the carshift around 9:50. The weather was as hot as could be expected for mid-summer but not as hot as predicted. Seven people attended this paddling event. We had four kayaks, one tandem Folbot, and one tandem canoe which was soloed. The current moved along at a good speed and the river was a little high but not in flood stage. We paddled from Castle Rock State Park to Grand Detour, about six to seven miles. It took us about two hours at a leisurely paddle. We stayed to the right bank most of the time. Getting a look at the castle-

like cliffs, we spotted several blue herons, a kingfisher, turkey vultures and a gold finch. Eagles have been nesting and fishing along the Rock recently but we didn't see any signs of eagles. Staying to the right bank was a mistake as we approached Grand Detour. We were nearing a private campground when the camp host called out to us that we have to move over to the main channel or we would have to portage. We were in a blind channel. We had to paddle up stream to get to around an island and into the main channel. When we arrived Grand Detour, some of us tried paddling to the designated canoe launch. I tried ferrying across the current and nearly missed the landing because I miscalculated the current. The banks of the canoe launch are a little too steep and they were muddy. I wound up paddling against the current to a place that had a gentler sloping bank. Many of us in the group had to do that. John Deere Historic Site was conducting their annual blacksmiths Hammer Inn and featured Roy Underhill of *The Woodwright Shop*. He demonstrated how to hand hew a log into a beam and showed some of the finer samples of his work. Some of them were a dovetail joint that joined two 2 by 2 boards together with a dovetail on all four sides. He showed a chair that was cut out if a board without joining two pieces together. He showed a wooden outhouse lock. I love Roy's dry sense of wit. In addition to blacksmiths, a variety of old trades were represented including, a cooper, a wheel wright, weavers, a cobbler and a broom maker. There were food vendors and one of them sold sweet corn for a dollar an ear. That was treat after a hot paddle. The view from Castle Rock to Grand Detour is spectacular but, even if paddling is skipped, John Deere Historic site is a nice stop along Route 2 just to get a glimpse of a fascinating bit of history.

*Randy Hermanson*

**Prairie State Canoeists**  
2009 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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Melinda Tury, 18 Fallbrook Drive, Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139

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:

a paper copy of the newsletter?  Yes  No

an electronic copy of the newsletter?  Yes  No

# Fall Dinner

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**  
**The Country Inn Restaurant of Lambs Farm**  
**Rt. 176 & I-94, Libertyville, Illinois**  
**5:00 PM Cash Bar & Social Hour**  
**6:00 PM Dinner**

Note: Board meeting at 4:00 PM; all members invited

**J**oin us for an evening of celebrating the sport of paddling. Buffet dinner will include a choice of entrees, side dishes, coffee and dessert. Cash bar. For special dietary needs, contact Sherri Graham, 630-393-0383 [canoen1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canoen1@sbcglobal.net).

Mark and Merri Morrall will be discussing their video guide to Wisconsin rivers.

Directions: Lambs Farm is located at the intersection of I-94 and Rt 176. Exiting from the northbound I-94 will take you directly into the entrance. The Country Inn Restaurant is the first building on the left, parking is on the right.

## Prairie State Canoeists 2008 Spring Dinner

### Reservation Form

**Deadline: November 8**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults, \$26.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

15 Years & Younger, \$13.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Toddlers, \$6.50 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ for Dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check to Prairie State Canoeists, mail c/o  
George Stenitzer  
177 North Adams  
Oswego, IL 60543.