

# ❖ KCCNY Newsletter ❖

The Newsletter of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York

Volume XXXIII Issue 5

December 1993

## 1993 Executive

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<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	<i>Vance Condie</i>
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## From the Chair

As we approach the holiday season, I'll not be discussing paddling in this issue. Although I realize KCCNY hosts a number of die-hard, cold water boaters, my concerns today are pertaining to the subject of "giving".

On November 20th, KCCNY sponsored it's Annual Dinner and final Executive Committee Meeting for 1993. As always, it was lots of fun with fine food and beverages served. I'd like at this time to express a very special thank you to Marian Greenfield for her efforts in coordinating this delightful gathering. Great job, Marian!

One item I'd like to address concerning this meeting is the fact that we had about one-half the attendance as last year. If you have the time, I'd like to hear from those who attended last year to find out, if possible, why you were unable to come this year. Also, I'd like to hear from those who have never come as to why you chose against being there. I realize everyone has conflicts in scheduling, but if there are other reasons why people couldn't make it, we'd love to hear. Perhaps we can do more to accommodate many. This is always a very important, as well as fun, meeting, and we'd love to see more people participate.

The next item of interest is the discussion we had at the meeting concerning where to donate our conservation money. Let me begin by apologizing for an error I made at the meeting concerning the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. They had sent information covering an upcoming seminar they are giving. I erred in stating they were charging for this which would have

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## Newsletter Submissions

This is **your** newsletter, the quality of each issue may be dependant upon submissions by the members of KCCNY. Articles should be submitted prior to the deadline that is established for the next issue, and each submission should be separate, and typed or legibly hand written.

For those who have access to computers, articles may also be submitted on a DOS formatted floppy disk (either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2"). Many word processor file formats are supported, please contact me to see if yours is, or supply a plain ASCII text file if in doubt. I can also receive articles via modem, please contact me if you wish to do this.

We now have the capability to digitally scan pictures that you may want published. For photo submissions the picture should be no larger than 5 X 7, they may be color, but black and white pictures may reproduce better.

Send all articles and/or pictures to:

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If you want the picture and/or floppy disk to be returned, please include a self addressed,

## From the Chair (cont.)

substantially defrayed the cost. Instead, the breakdown given was for final costs for the seminar, and money needed to provide it. It is important this be noted and understood before a final vote is cast.

I'd also like to mention AWA has requested a proposed donation to help pay for their latest worthy venture. This being the purchase of land, estimated to be in 1/2 acre parcels, in order to create public put-ins for rivers where access is now on private land. Purchase of this land would create easements or access for no less than 3-4 and up to 25 rivers nation-wide.

We also had individuals speak up for other river organizations, including New England FLOW and the Passaic River Coalition. On January 30th, we will hold our next meeting. At this time we will be discussing details of each group's request for funds, (which I am unable to expand upon at this point), and casting the final vote for distributing those funds. If you would like to learn more about what KCCNY is doing in aiding conservation, or have input you'd like to share, we encourage your attendance. The meeting will be held at the home of Ed and Miriam Alexander on the previously mentioned date.

At the end of the meeting we voted in the new Executive Committee for next year, which you'll find listed in this issue of the newsletter, and had lots of fun giving out awards. If you missed this, it's unfortunate. Lots of giggles are had by all as we decide who got "windowshaded" the worst, or who is adventurous enough to maintain the position of "probe" during the past year. On a more serious note, it was wonderful to learn that The Goldstein Trophy, given to the person who has gone above and beyond their usual efforts for our club, has this year been to Ken Fischman. I don't believe any of us could find a more suitable candidate. Congratulations, Ken!

Now a more frivolous issue. I have finally decided to attempt to earn the credit on the masthead for "art work" by submitting a couple of rough cartoons. The subject I've chosen is, "What To Do With Your Kayak In the Winter". This, of course, is only relevant to those not so die-hard boaters who find skiing or just sitting by the fireplace conflicts with their paddling season. If you are (or are not) one of those individuals, and you would like to expand upon my efforts, please submit your own ideas. All will be welcome no matter what your drawing talent. As it is mine are very rusty!

The last item of note is that pool sessions will again be starting up in January, and will continue through March. If you aren't interested in putting on several layers of polypro, a beanie, gloves, socks, booties, head gasket, balaclava, wet or drysuit and more, to kayak between the ice flows, throw that boat on

# Esopus Creek Trip Report

by the Chairperson's daughter Cameron

one summer day, mommy, denis, phyllis, dan, and i wanted to paddle the esopus. everyone was in a kayak except me. i paddled in the bow of the canoe with denis.

it was cool out so i wore my wetsuit. denis wanted to surf some waves, and so he did. it was fun. one time we went through some big waves and got soaking wet. i got cold. i think i need a "kidgear" paddle suit!

i did not paddle railroad rapids. denis helped me portage. i got back in the canoe and ran the rest of the river. it was fun and i want to do it again sometime, especially when it is warm! Hope to see you all on the river...

# Black Bean Vindaloo

by Jon Gellman

Some of you have expressed admiration of one of my standard camping concoctions that uses vindaloo paste, a convenient form of the hottest type of curry. Its preparation is really fairly simple, very similar to an Italian pasta sauce. It really hits the spot and leaves an easy cleanup.

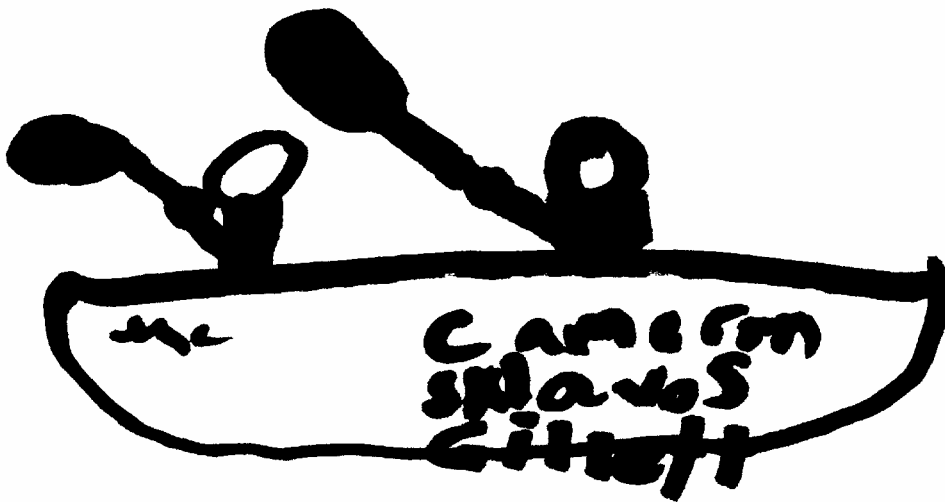
Ingredients:

- 2 large onions, coarsely sliced
- 4 cloves of garlic (at least!!!)
- saute vegetables (zucchini, peppers, snow peas, etc...)
- 2 cans Goya black bean soup
- 1 pound Chinese rice noodles
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Indian vindaloo paste (to taste)
- optional 1/2 - 1 pound kielbasa, split and sliced thin

The vindaloo paste is available in Indian, Pakistani or Bangladesh groceries, which happen to be common in my lower Manhattan neighborhood if not in yours. There is an excellent one at 1st Ave and 6th Street in the little India district.

While boiling a large pot of water for the noodles, heat the oil in a large saucepan and saute first the garlic (minced or pressed) till golden, then add the onions. Drop the quick cooking noodles into boiling water and drain at any point. My preferred pan is a 12" flat bottom nonstick wok with a single handle that unscrews to allow easy storage. It is

Depending on how soft you like onions, saute, then add the sliced veggies and when they're slightly soft add the beans after draining off the excess liquid. If you're doing the kielbasa, you've previously or concurrently sauteed the slices till brown and drained off the grease, now add that to the main pot. Stir in a tablespoon of the vindaloo paste and taste it, add more until you're burning to taste. I often splash on some beer (always at hand), if it seems too thick or dry at any point. Serve the vindaloo over the noodles. This recipe serves 3 to 4 paddlers.



## Hatless by Bruce Farrenkopf

Hat Clauer needed help cleaning up his house for the Tohickon weekend boaters. I'm not very good at domestic chores, but I can do some of the more repetitive tasks if I concentrate, so I volunteered. Hat's Tohickon weekends happen once a year for the Fall release and have been ongoing for about 10 years. A mix of open boaters, kayakers, C-boaters, experienced and novice paddlers come together at Hat's place for good food, a warm place to sleep, good company, good food, the Tohickon and good food. This is really an important trip for me because it provides a key link to both long-time friends and new boaters. Hat entertains 15-20 people, doing all the cooking. He also seems to use the Tohickon weekend as a stimulus to do interior decorating. So every year in the weeks preceding the release, Hat cooks himself senseless while doing something to his place to give it a "new look".

So I step in the door to Hat's place around 7 PM Friday night, and take in the scene. No curtains on the windows, debris strewn all over the rugs, furniture seems randomly distributed and he's got ten people coming in the next two hours. All three floors were a big jumble. Jeeze. Hat's in the kitchen with three burners going and I notice there's a steak on the barbecue outside. If that's dinner for us this might not be so bad. Hat's got this "all-is-normal" attitude, and I remember that this is a typical situation prior to a Hat gathering. I was also reminded of Hat's re-upholstering project after pulling a partially lodged tack out of my heel. The living room is covered with green velour fuzz, tacks and staples, and with greater

care I walk over to the couch. "Nice job Hat" (and it was). Hat says "It looks like it belongs in a bordello" (well maybe). The place was freshly painted and a new set of curtains that Hat made were draped over a chair. Hat's knows his way around a sewing machine and this comes in handy when you need thigh straps for a C-boat or nylon pile (ie "orgasmics"). Yes, the steak was for dinner and provided me with sufficient motivation to go on vacuum cleaning once I finished hanging the curtains. By this time other boaters had arrived and were put to work. The vacuum cleaner and I collapsed around 10:30 and I took a snooze on the living room floor. About an hour later I woke up and Hat was still running around doing stuff. The place looked good. Hat had pulled it off.

I realized a long time ago that Hat seems most content if he's got several ongoing activities. He's Mr. Perpetual Motion. On any boating trip he's the first one up in the morning and gets coffee going and provides breakfast. And I don't mean instant oatmeal. Pancakes, french toast and cut fruit is the usual fare. Life can be pretty good. Hat's preference for campsite cooking can be a problem though. For instance, we've been boating all day in the cold rain and we're driving back to camp. It's after dark and a McDonald's comes into focus through the drizzle. Hat wants to stop at a grocery store. We want a burger. Sometimes we'd give in and help Hat cook in the rain till 9 PM. Most of the time it was worth it.

One remarkable characteristic of Hat's is his laugh. Hearing Hat laugh is unforgettable and it's hard to describe. It's very loud and

weird and lasts a long time. "All right, who got Hat started?" He also has a propensity for turning any phrase made during normal conversation into a song or jingle. One minute your having a casual conversation with Hat, and then somehow what you've said reminds him of an Eagles song and away he goes inserting your phrase into "Desperado", singing in his baritone. What a guy.

Hat is a very experienced, solid C-1 / C-2 boater. In a C-2 he can paddle bow or stern and can switch to his off-side. Very unusual. As a result, he can paddle C-2 with almost any C-1 boater and has introduced many to the joys, trials and tribulations of C-2 boating. I have paddled C-2 with Hat and they have been among my best-ever runs, including making some must-rolls in serious water. Hat will hang in there forever to make a roll. He is known for his ability to successfully roll on multiple attempts, especially in his C-1. I think someone counted 14 attempts on one occasion on the Upper Yough. He can hold his breath for a long time too. I saw him flip at the top of Pillow Rock on the Upper Gauley in his Extrabat, he seemed content with waiting out the turbulence until below Volkswagen Rock, including an all-to-long stay in the "room of doom" eddy - not a recommended approach for running Pillow but quite a feat nevertheless. Hat's favorite runs are on tight, technical rivers with plenty of water amidst blue sky and warm air. Yeah, that sounds about right. Hat would call this an "Ultimate Paddling Day" and I've been fortunate to share some UPD's with Hat. His favorite run is the

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## Hatless by Bruce Farrenkopf

*(Continued from page 4)*

Upper Meadow.

When pulling into an occupied eddy anywhere on East Coast rivers, chances are Hat knows the other boaters. Hat has a penchant for giving his friends nicknames, and that's how I've gotten to know many boaters - by their Hat-given names. So at the Tohickon gathering you'll find Slugger, Cowboy and Ikco. Hat has become a pivotal link for forming and keeping friendships. Something I haven't appreciated until recently.

Hat has been an extremely active boater, probably putting in 75-100 days a year. It sometimes makes me a little envious, then I realize he is racing against time. Hat has a congenital heart defect, which severely limited his physical activities until he was 19. At that time he volunteered for experimental surgery in which an artificial valve was inserted in his heart. This prosthesis completely transformed Hat's life, he became capable of vigorous activity and he took full advantage. He kept himself in excellent shape. A few weeks after his second open-heart operation in 1988 he was skiing Jackson Hole. He has come back to help me carry **my** boat up the grueling Panther Creek takeout on the Upper Gauley. It's been non-stop for Hat, that's the way he wanted it and he was not interested in "slowing down", or "taking it easy". I think he may even have felt that sleep robbed him of precious time. He often ran himself down and we frequently coaxed him to slow up a little. But he really never took this advice as far as I can tell. It

was clear what motivated Hat.

Recently, he complained to me that he got tired at the Panther Creek takeout this year. I said "Hat you're 43, you don't do any aerobic exercise other than boating, so join the club", and I didn't take the complaint seriously. The Tohickon weekend was conducted in classic Hat style. Non-stop, multiple activities at home, with two runs on Saturday and two cooold runs on Sunday. Hat paddled very strongly both days. About 8 PM Sunday night, Hat called me up and said he had post-party blues. This was typical. Hat asked if he could come over and I said "Hat, aren't you tired? Why don't you get some sleep?" I know I was tired and I only made **one** run on Sunday. Hat said "Yeah, I'm tired. I guess I should go to bed early". Good Idea. I thanked him for a great weekend and told him the food was terrific and the Tohickon weekend was a very special event for me. Hat suggested maybe doing something similar for the Spring release. We talked for awhile and made plans for him to come over mid-week.

Hat passed away later that evening. We still can't grasp the fact that he's gone. It feels empty. There's a big hole in our lives where Hat used to be.

An autopsy revealed that the prosthesis had failed.

But don't feel sorry for Hat. He thoroughly enjoyed his life and passed away after an extremely active weekend doing what he

## Yellow Creek

by Pete Sholander

Yellow Creek is a tributary of Daddy's Creek in Tennessee's Emory-Obed watershed. The takeout is at Devils Breakfast Table (DBT) on Daddy's Creek. You'll drive over Yellow Creek as you're driving up to the Antioch Bridge put-in. The semi-official gauge for Yellow Creek is the bridge pad on river left; 8" above it is considered minimal. Alternatively, walk down the creek, on river right, a hundred yards to the first rock garden, if this looks OK then it can be ran. The mile and a half from the put-in bridge to the Daddy's Creek confluence, has a mile of 100' per mile. The difficulty is comparable to the Brodhead in the Poconos.

At the confluence, the volume jumps from 100-200 cfs to 1,000-2,000 cfs on Daddy's (5,000-10,000 cfs at the Oakdale gauge on the Emory). What you missed, upstream on Daddy's is 3 1/2 miles of relatively flat water. Downstream the gradient continues at 100' per mile. This combo of gradient, flow, under cutting and hell portages is comparable in difficulty to Lost Paddle, on the Gauley at 2,500 - 5,000 cfs.

Daddy's Creek is a Federal Wild and Scenic River. The whole Yellow/Daddy's Creek run is in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, hence the scenery is excellent.

# River Conservation 1993 - A Busy Year by Ken Fischman

## 1. Mongaup River:

There was both good and bad news about releases. The good news was that there were 15 whitewater releases this year, more than on any other local river, and usage increased as the wood spread. The Mongaup though, is still far from the mob scene on the Tohicken, and most people enjoyed themselves except for an occasional gripe about the scratchiness of one-turbine releases.

The bad news was that two releases were botched, one not coming off at all, and the other being 45 minutes late. There is never a cloud but it has a silver lining however. I sent an official protest to FERC, the agency which granted Orange and Rockland Utilities (O&R) the license to operate the hydro. Charles Peterson shipped FERC a petition we had drawn up on the spot, and AMC, the Harrisburg Canoe Club, and other groups also contacted them. The response was immediate and gratifying. FERC warned O&R that they were in violation of their license, and O&R instituted a new system, resembling in its complication, a Rube Goldberg invention. The important outcome for us is that it is less likely that future releases will be botched, and since O&R will *begin testing its turbines at 9 am, boaters who arrive earlier than the officially scheduled release time of 10 am will, on most occasions, have up to one hour of additional paddling time.*

### \*Possibility of bigger releases -

Most of you are aware that because of the National Park Services' fears that 2 turbine releases will create a safety hazard out on the Delaware, FERC has limited us to 1 turbine releases,

which are much less enjoyable. In the year-end report which O&R sends to FERC, I submitted an addendum containing a 10 page analysis and refutation of the original test on which the 2 turbine ban was based. I have received great news from FERC. The analysis convinced them to order O&R to reopen the question of 2 turbine releases and perform proper tests, probably in the Spring. Matthew Giltner and I are working on this. We shall surely need your help on this, and I will keep you informed in subsequent newsletter issues.

## 2. New York Rivers:

This new river conservation organization (yours truly is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors) has successfully completed its first year of operation, and I am happy to report that is now on a sounder financial basis. NYRU is an organization that has long been needed in New York, because it brings together groups concerned with river conservation, who, working together, have a lot more clout, and can accomplish a lot of good. NYRU's governing ethic is that rivers should be viewed as complex ecosystems, which are effected by all the animate and inanimate aspects of their watersheds. This might appear as self evident to us, but the fact is that government agencies treat rivers as if they were machines, thinking that their isolated problems can be isolated and fixed. The problem with this approach is that it does not work.

This year and in 1994, over 40 hydros in New York State will come up for relicensing. NYRU is now concentrating on this window of opportunity in order to accomplish a lot of good things.

Such as recreational releases for fishing and boating, restoration of riparian areas, and wetlands, construction of riverside trails and river access, etc. Director Bruce Carpenter, along with Dan Palm, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and KCCNY's own Pete Skinner, are doing a great job and deserve the support of all river lovers.

## 3. Navigation Rights in New York State:

The Legal Defense Fund of the Sierra Club won a great victory for boaters in October. For the last 100 years private clubs and large land owners have blocked access to many rivers in the Adirondacks by claiming that they own them! New York State abetted them by refusing to challenge their illegal seizure of the rivers. Sierra Club boaters deliberately "trespassed" on the Moose River and brought a court case, which they won! The court ruled that navigability no longer had to be proved by documenting that logs once were floated down these rivers, but that *if you can paddle down a river, you have proved that it is navigable* (logical isn't it?). Not only that but the court went further to say that boaters can portage across private property, up to the "high water line" to get around navigational hazards, such as waterfalls (take that Mr Wechsler!), dams, and I suppose, unrunnable rapids. Lets hope that the higher courts uphold this ruling.

## 4. FERC turns down the first hydro licence in 2,000 applications!

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, you heard it here first... An enterprising chap in the Adirondacks applied for a licence to construct a hydro on a scenic waterfall in Barbersville, NY. The

## River Conservation (continued)

land on both sides was owned by the Nature Conservancy. Pete Skinner and AWA intervened in the licensing procedure, and FERC turned down the application. Of course their stated reason for denying the application was that the project was economically unfeasible, but why carp at such a technicality? FERC had never before in its entire history turned down an application. A new day is dawning!

### 5. Access to the Mongaup wave denied:

The National Park Service has leased land from New York State at the confluence of the Mongaup and Delaware Rivers in order to build a visitor center. This is the place where boaters park their cars and carry their boats down trails to the Delaware in order to ferry themselves over to the Mongaup wave. I wrote a letter to Superintendent Hutsky of the NPS, expressing my concern that our historic access be maintained. Mr. Hutsky returned my letter to me (what do you suppose that means?), with a note which essentially said that boater's access to the Mongaup wave was not in his plans. I have been contacting various individuals and agencies to see what kind of support we can get in what is now looking like a fight against an insensitive bureaucracy. I have formed a committee with Vance Condie and Doug Feick of KCCNY, and Barry Burbach of AMC to plan strategy.

### 6. Neversink Gorge:

This saga seem endless. Remember, we left our heroes gnashing their teeth in frustration when New Your State ran out of money to buy Mr. Wechsler's land (at a fair price) after having condemned it. The whole thing

started when Wechsler had refused to allow boaters to portage around Great Falls or to allow hikers access to the land on which he held fishing and hunting (but not property) rights. The October 31 deadline approached, at which Cinderella's coach would turn back into a pumpkin, the condemnation would expire, and all the efforts that the paddling community had made over the past four years would come to naught. Then at the 11th hour the cavalry rode in, in the form of the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, which found \$225,000 from a Federal Government grant. Of course, Mr. Wechsler swears that he will fight this in court until his dying day, and I have no reason to doubt him. Nevertheless, at the present time boaters are free to enter the Gorge and portage their boats if they so wish, assuming we ever find enough natural runoff water to make it worthwhile. Of course we could persuade of force New York City to make recreational releases from the Neversink Reservoir as State law allows. This would be identical to the present situation on the Esopus River. That however is another story and another struggle... To be continued...

### 7. American Rivers Conference:

In November, American Rivers held a conference in Washington DC to mark the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Yours truly attended, and it was indeed a happy occasion. It was wonderful to see almost all the recent appointees as Heads of federal agencies, such as Parks, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, not only attending, but speaking the same language as river lovers. I was particularly impressed with

Jim Bacas, the Head of the Bureau of Land Management, who encouraged us to support changes in grazing laws and the Mining Law of 1887 (who says nothing ever remains the same!).

We learned of some great river conservation triumphs. The Tatshenshini, which flows out of British Columbia to merge with the Alsek in the Alaska Panhandle, was saved by international treaty from being destroyed by an open pit copper mine. Credit goes to conservationist Rick Careless, as well as to Vice President Al Gore and the Premier of British Columbia. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition stopped "the Mine from Hell" from being opened. This gold mine would have been dug on top of a mountain, which sits astride three different river drainages, the Clearwater, the Yellowstone and the Clarks Fork. The arsenic which is used to extract the ore would have permanently poisoned all three rivers. My biggest thrill was having dinner with my hero, Al Gore. Of course there were eleven hundred other people present but what the hell.

### 8. Potpourri:

The Westfield River in Massachusetts and the Farmington River in Connecticut have been added to the Wild and Scenic River System. The addition of the Farmington was defeated through the efforts of the "Wise Use" movement, which used scare tactics, convincing riparian land owners that their property rights would be taken away. Watch out for these guys. They play rough!!!

The Deerfield River in Massachusetts opened its Class IV section a Monroe Bridge due to the efforts of Tom Christopher and

## Welcome New Members

GARY BEBERMAN  
250 E. Houston St. #7C  
New York, NY 10002  
212-260-5929 (H)  
212-677-8840 (W)

LYNDA BAYDIN  
Cedar Hill Dr.  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
201-267-7617 (H)  
201-267-7758 (W)

ROBERT HARRIS & JODY SCHAEFFER  
2 Tudor City Place, Apt GJN  
New York, NY 10017  
212-818-0845 (H)

NANCY SUMMERS & ALLEN OLLENDORF  
254 Crombie St.  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
516-271-1056(H)

WAYNE SUNDMACHER  
17 Terrill Ave.  
Mercerville, NJ 08619  
609-586-8366 (W & H)

JOSEPH TORHAN  
19 Wildwood Drive  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
914-462-7968 (H)  
914-725-6400 (W)

PAMELA HOLT  
715-33 Frenchtown Rd.  
Bridgeport, CT 06606  
203-365-0560 (H)  
203-326-4810

EVAN COLGAN & JANET SAYLOR  
138 Doxbury Lane  
Suffern, NY 10901  
914-368-3293 (H)  
914-945-2909 (W)

GORDON TRINKLER  
2518 Spruce St.  
Union, NJ 07083  
908-688-1704

## Change of Address

LAURA HELFMAN (again!)  
11 Rolling Green Drive # 12  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
704-452-7798

DOUG FEICK  
76 Neperan Rd.  
PO Box 220  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
914-332-9774 (H)

## Buy, Sell and Swap



### FOR SALE

Wave Sports Excel kayak, purple,  
\$400 or make offer

Call Vance Condie at 212-678-0863

### FOR SALE

Pro Jet squirt boat, cut for about  
150 lbs., possibly more goodies for sale

Call Nancy Sklavos at 201-663-5227

### FOR SALE

Perception Reflex, purple with spray  
skirt, like new \$350

Noah AQ, red fair condition \$300

Perception Dancer, red well outfitted  
fair condition \$250

Prices may be negotiable  
Call Jon Gellman at 201-334-0824

## Paddlesport 1994

Mark your calendars now! Paddlesport '94  
will be Feb. 26-27 at the Ramada Inn,  
Princeton NJ.

Walt Durrea says that this year it will be  
bigger and better than ever.

## Your Tent is Your Castle

San Francisco (UPI)  
reprinted from RICA Newsletter

A divided federal appeals court ruled Wednesday that **police cannot search a tent at a public campsite without a search warrant.**

On a 2 - 1 vote, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decided evidence obtained from the search of a tent at a state park in Washington had to be suppressed because a suspect living in the tent had the same right to privacy as someone living in a house or apartment.

The ruling upheld a lower court order invalidating the search and dismissing felony gun possession charges against Kenneth D. Gooch.

Gooch was arrested after sheriff's deputies received a call about a disturbance in which shots were fired at a campground. Officers found a shotgun when they searched his tent.

Gooch was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm but was acquitted after a post-trial hearing in which a federal judge ruled the search illegal.

The U.S. appealed, but the 9th Circuit upheld the lower court ruling. The appeals panel said citizens had a "legitimate interest in their privacy" in short-term dwellings, even those situated on public land.

## KCCNY Pool Sessions

by Charles Peterson

Pool sessions are to be held this year at the D'Angola Gymnasium at Kean College in Union NJ. They are scheduled for Sunday mornings, 9 - 11 AM, from January 23 thru March 27, and are subject to lifeguard availability.

The Kean College pool is adjacent to the college's Woodland Avenue parking lot. It may be reached by taking Route #82 to Green Lane. Check your map for access to Route #82 and the Kean College Campus. Neither KCCNY or the college is responsible for

articles brought to or left at the pool.

On entering the pool boaters will sign in and pay a \$5.00 per person user fee. Boats are limited to current KCCNY members, one boat per member, and they **MUST** be washed on the pool deck prior to placement in the pool on each occasion. If during the pool session you need to empty water out of you boat please do so on the deck, not into the pool. These precautions will keep the maintenance of the pool to a minimum, and all concerned happy!

## Phone numbers for river flow information

- AMC Hotline, CT	203-583-6978	
- Black River, NY	315-369-3536	Adirondack River Outfitters
- Delaware Rivers	717-559-7527	
	717-729-7134	(winter)
- Deerfield River, CT	413-625-8414	
- Farmington River, CT	203-379-1448	Bark Hamstead (lower section)
	203-658-4442	New Boston
- Gauley River, WV	304-872-5809	
- Housatonic River, CT	203-824-7861	
- Hudson River, NY	518-869-6347	
- Kennebec River, ME	800-371-7774	
- Lackawaxen River, PA	717-226-3702	P.A. Power & Light, Honesdale PA
- Lehigh River, PA	717-427-8161	State Park Rangers Office (between 8:00AM - 4:00PM)
	215-597-4701	U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, Phila PA
- Mongaup River, NY	914-577-2911	
- Moose/Sacandaga, NY	518-465-2016	
- New England Rivers	508-824-3579	
- Southern Rivers	304-529-5127	New, Bluestone, Greenbriar, Gauley, Elk, Cranberry and Meadow
- Tohicken River, PA	215-297-5090	
- Yough River, PA	814-533-8911	Upper Yough
	814-395-3166	Yough Dam Recreation Information
- West River, PA	802-874-5681	
- Glen Miller Shuttles	304-379-3404	

Please note that some of these phone numbers are commercial businesses, while others are state agencies, please be courteous to them on the phone! KCCNY is not responsible for the accuracy of these phone numbers, this information comes from many sources, if there any corrections, please notify us as soon as

New Wave add here

# 1994 Cruising Calendar (Preview!!)

Even if a trip is not listed as instructional, it can be! Keep your eyes open. Is there some one who looks good paddling, do their moves look easy and smooth? Watch them and see why, and by all means ASK for some tips. This can be a great opportunity to not only get some "inside information" but also a way to make some friends. You will find that most people are very willing to help or give assistance...

Thanks to all those that have already signed up to coordinate a trip! We still need many more trips to make it a great 1994 Cruising Calendar. If you can coordinate a trip (ie: Play Spots, Deerfield, West...), or if you have your own trip in mind, please give Jackie Condie a call at 212-678-0863, or Doug Feick at 914-332-9774.

DATE	SKILL	RIVER / LOCATION	COORDINATOR / PHONE NUMBER
All winter	ALL	Scudders Falls, Tohickon, etc...	Daniel Lenox 201-663-1364
03/12	I-A	Nescopek	Ed Hanrahan 201-226-4582
04/23 or 24	I-A	Moodna	Tom Gustanis 914-986-1414
05/07 or 08	ALL	Mongaup River Cleanup	Matt Giltner 908-534-1465
05/14 or 15	Novice	Delaware River - Beginners	Marian Greenfield 212-483-2184 in conjunction with NOC
05/21 or 22	I	Hudson River - Riparius Section	Paul Epstein 914-297-7120
<b>Memorial Day Weekend</b>			
05/28 - 30	I-A	West Virginia	Tom Gustanis 914-986-1414
06/04 - 05	ALL	KCCNY Annual Auction	Dan Lenox 201-663-1364
06/04 - 05	ALL	Esopus - KCCNY Race Weekend	Matt Giltner 908-534-1465
06/11 - 12	I-A	Black River	Dan Lenox 201-663-1364
07/11	I	Advanced Strokes for Intermediates	Ed Hanrahan 201-226-4582
07/16 - 17	I-A	Black River	Dan Lenox 201-663-1364
08/06 or 07	Novice	Delaware River Area - Beginners	Doug Feick 914-332-9774
08/20 - 21	I-A	Black River	Dan Lenox 201-663-1364
<b>Columbus Day Weekend</b>			
10/08 - 10	I-A	Yough River	Matt & Liz Moffitt 908-446-5389
10-22 or 23	I-A	Pocono or Catskill Area	Jon Gellman 212-334-0824
11/05 or 06	I-A	Tohickon River	Dan Lenox 201-663-1364

### \*\*\* Other Trips \*\*\*

Alan Tindell 212-228-6249 will be ocean surfing on Matunick Beach RI

Heath Bingham 914-271-5687 will be leading a Spring and Fall trip on the Leigh (waiting for the release dates...)

## Tips and Techniques by Don Belcher

My favorite season has now come to a close, boating season, that is. While many of our membership have disappeared into the hills with skinny little boards strapped to their roof racks where their kayaks should be, my dreams turn to all that frozen water melting in the early spring sun and racing gleefully through the canyons and streambeds, to play once again among the rocks with the myriad of colorful plastic, fiberglass, and kevlar boats that have come to celebrate its descent to the sea. The past season has taken its wear and tear on my paddling gear, however, so the time has come to dig out the bonding cement, odd pieces of minicell foam, and other various equipment to prepare for the upcoming spring.

What's this, buried in my car under the sandwich bags, granola bar wrappers, and yogurt containers? It looks like the neck gasket on my drysuit, except for the holes I had to furiously patch to catch the last releases of the fall. Well, I have time now to find the right container for fitting the new gasket onto my drysuit, and I might even be able to bribe a few friends to help me, while we spin stories of real and imagined adventures on the raging rivers. Naturally, if you're not adventurous (foolish?) enough to attempt your own drysuit repair, you could pay to have someone else do it. Don't look at me, I'm not that much of a masochist!

So-o-o, you're still with me? You must be one of those crazies who

enjoy beating their heads on the rocks. If you haven't repaired a drysuit gasket (or cuff) before, don't begin with the neck gasket, unless you also enjoy a close relationship with cold water. Begin with a wrist or ankle gasket, and allow a couple of hours for doing the repair. By the way, you can buy gaskets at paddling supply stores in pairs or order a whole set of five for the same price as buying them individually, which may take a few weeks to get to you.

Find a nice flat surface to work on, with an electric outlet nearby for a hair blower or heat gun. Cut the old gasket off about an inch to two inches from the sleeve or leg of your drysuit. You'll need this part of the old gasket to attach the new one to. Locate a glass jar or round cardboard carton that is about the same diameter as the sleeve and slip the drysuit sleeve over the end of the container, just enough so the old gasket is stretched over the container, even with the rim. Using both hands, or more if you have them, stretch the new gasket wide enough to slip over the old one without contacting it. Slide it down as far as it will go, (don't touch the old gasket!) and release. Et, Voila! You have just completed the dry run. Just like scouting an unfamiliar rapid that takes some tricky maneuvering, don't skip this step.

Now for the glue. (I've got butterflies in my stomach already.) Mark how far the new gasket overlaps the old one with chalk, or a rubber band slipped over it. Remove the new gasket and apply

bonding cement (a tube may come with your new gaskets) to the old gasket, which is still stretched over the container. Use a popsicle stick or brush to apply the cement evenly. You can use latex gloves, but none of your paddling buddies will believe you repaired it yourself if you're not still peeling glue from your fingers next spring. Turn the new gasket inside out, and coat the area that will overlap the old gasket. A second container helps here, but don't stretch the gasket too much, you have to remove it later and invert it without it sticking to itself.

While the cement dries, retell anyone who will listen how you got trashed at Phil's Hole on the Ottawa, or reread this issue of the KCCNY newsletter. When both gaskets have dried until they are tacky, pray. Here's where you follow the dry run, being sure not to let the two gaskets touch until you release the new one. Aha!! You almost made it, except a couple spots stuck before you got it all the way on. Quick! Grab the hair blower! Well, go get it, we'll wait. Aim the gun at any air bubble or wrinkle, and massage the gasket with your fingers to smooth the gasket as evenly as possible.

Your end result may not look perfect, but if it will keep out the cold water, who's to criticize? Let them try it themselves! Let the drysuit stay on the container overnight, and apply silicone to all the gaskets before putting it away. Oh yeah, the neck gasket! I've been told a straight sided mixing bowl works well. Or does anyone

# 1994 KCCNY Executive Committee Elections

Elections for the KCCNY Executive Committee were held at the annual dinner on November 20, 1993. The results of those elections are as follows:

Chairperson	Nancy Sklavos	Conservation	Pete Skinner Ken Fischman
Vice Chairperson	Vance Condie	Training	Marian Greenfield Pierre DeRham
Treasurer	Helen Chase	Annual Race	Phyllis Horowitz
Membership	Pierre DeRham	Competition Liason	Jim Raleigh
Cruising	Jackie Condie	Delegates at Large	Ed Alexander Jon Gellman Doug Feick Ed Hanrahan Matt Moffitt Desi Desvernine Charles Peterson
Newsletter	Daniel Lenox		
Safety	Don Belcher Matthew Giltner		

## 1994 KCCNY Special Awards

This years Special Award competition was a fierce one, with Ken Fischman coming out the clear winner. In fact it almost seemed that for the awards he collected, there was either very little competition, or his achievements had far surpassed any others.

At the meeting, it came apparant that we needed a new trophy, so it was voted upon and now we have an EPIC SWIMMING award. Well congratulations Ken, and below is the list of those 'lucky' people who won one (or more) special awards:

Strainer	~	Ken Fischman
Window Shade	~	Ken Fischman
Probe	~	Vance Condie
Hole Hog	~	Jon Gellman
Inconstant Roll	~	Jane Bernstein
Epic Swimming	~	Matt Giltner

To those of you that have not seen these trophies yet, here is a quick description: each sits upon a finished wooden pedestal made of red oak, has a brass identification plate, and is topped off by its own distinctive feature:

Strainer	-full size colander
Window Shade	- miniature shade
Probe	- Bartman with cape
Hole Hog	- pig with aqualung
Inconstant Roll	- upside-down canoe
Epic Swimming	- snorkle

Congratulations on this years winners, they only get to keep the trophies for the year, if they are good they may get nominated again next year for either the same one or a different one (if they are lucky)!

Ken Fischman set a new KCCNY record by winning 2 of these coveted trophies this year... But take heed, for rumor has it that next year he is going to compete for an unpreisdented Triple Crown!!

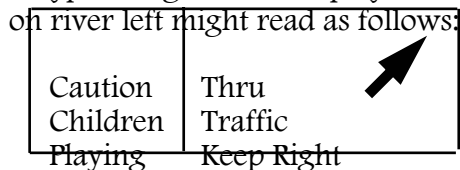
# A Modest Proposal for the Betterment of Whitewater Boating

by Paul J. Epstein

It's happened to me several times. Before going on a trip on a river I've never paddled, I consult my guidebooks to acquaint myself with the river and know what to expect. Unfortunately, once on the river I pretty much forget everything I've read, except that somewhere ahead lies a particularly nasty drop - it may be a long, constricted passage that must be run on the extreme right, or perhaps a huge hole in the center to be avoided at all costs. Regrettably, I have no recollection of what to look for to let me know when it is coming up.

Usually at some point I ask the trip coordinator when we will be coming to this fearsome drop. Invariably the answer has been "I'm not sure. I think we just passed it, but it might be around the next bend." It was this recurring scenario that led me to the thought that what we need on the rivers are signs to tell us where we are and what lies ahead.

Now I can almost hear the collective whine from all the purists out there who are saying "What, is he crazy? We don't want signs all over our rivers." Well relax, we're not talking neon here; just some small, tasteful signs that identify particular rapids or provide other helpful information. A typical sign above a play wave



If only we could require tubers to take a literacy test. I'm sure there are some skeptics who are thinking "Well this might not be a bad idea, but it'll cost billions to

put signs along all the rivers. Who's going to pay for it? We don't need any more user fees." Not to worry. I've got a plan.

Under my plan all rapids will have to be renamed. Some traditionalists may object to this, but it seems to me that the current system of naming rapids is an arbitrary and haphazard business. Some are named for a particular landmark that may no longer be around. When's the last time anyone saw a train at Railroad? The instructor in my first kayak clinic told us that some river features are named after someone who got trashed at that spot. He then proceeded to name a rock on the Androscoggin River where I broached, leaned upstream, and took my first whitewater swim "Paul's Rock."

All this leads me to the conclusion that there should be a better and more systematic way to name rapids. Well there is, and it's the key to my plan. All rapids will be renamed after politicians and other historical figures. All politicians are so ego-driven that they can't resist being immortalized by having something named after them, and since there aren't very many new bridges, tunnels and elementary schools being built these days, they'll line up like lemmings to pass a bill to provide federal funds to put signs along rivers, as long as their names will be on some of those signs. I've even come up with a name for the plan: Comprehensive River Information Sign Program, or CRISP - no bureaucrat can resist a snappy acronym.

I know some of you may feel that it is important for the name of a rapid to give an indication of its

difficulty, if only to terrify someone running it for the first time. The more horrific the name (e.g. Hell Hole, Meatgrinder, Bus Stop), the worse you can expect to get trashed. Well the CRISP system will be able to provide the same information about difficulty, although in a more subtle way. The greater the achievements of the person for whom a rapid is named, the more difficult it will be. Thus all presidents (except Ronald Reagan) will rate a Class V. Ditto famous generals, explorers, inventors, etc., while your average legislator would only rate a Class II, or a III at best.

Even within the presidential category there will be distinctions based on historical importance. A boater who has just made it through Lincoln Falls unscathed knows he or she should have no trouble punching through Fillmore's Hole. An incidental benefit of the system is its educational value. Most hard-core boaters know the names of all the major rapids in the country, but probably can't name more than a dozen presidents. CRISP will change all that. We'll be able to amaze our friends when we play Trivial Pursuit.

I imagine there are some of you who are still not convinced that we should have all these signs with the names of politicians along our rivers. Well consider this - once a Congressman has a rapid named after him, he'll have a proprietary interest in it and is certainly going to fight like hell to prevent any hydro project from destroying it.

## Tennessee by Storm(s) by Jon Gellman

It seems that Pete Sholander left you hanging in the last issue with a mention of my visiting the Piney River with him last summer. Well, here's the saga of my heroic effort to turn a business trip into a paddling blitz, although I'm afraid I can't render the same kind of river details as he does.

Upon realizing that I was going to Nashville Tennessee in July (of last year), I desperately searched for a connection. Phyllis gave me a lead. I had read Pete's occasional article with a sweating brow so I was enthused when he invited me to paddle with him and some buddies.

Logistic came next. It seems that Columbia had an AQII on order from Dagger, located in Harriman... Tennessee! Hmm, on the way from Nashville to Athens TN, where Pete lives, perfect!

After a day and morning of business I jumped in my rented Corolla with paddle, gear and radar detector and screamed for Harriman, it being 2 hours away in thunderstorms plus crossing a time zone, and I had been warned to be there before five. Arriving within minutes to spare, at speeds my mother would hate to know, Mojo, my contact, drawled "Luck you got there, you almost missed us. We were heading out for a quick run".

"Uh, you don't suppose, maybe I could, uh, join you?". "I guess so". Alright, after a quick tour of the plant and the paperwork done, Mojo, Joe and Pete, two Dagger executives and I headed out for a nearby creek known as the Tiny Piney, that none of them had run. My questions brought out simply that it was class IV with a drop known as the "Baby Gorilla", gulp.

The AQII fit like a glove and the creek was a ball, all ledges and chutes. Mojo was in an open boat and the others were in a tandem, both ahead of me going around a turn when I saw them drop down a slide. What I didn't see was the overhung rock at the bottom right that they just bounded off of, but I wedged under. Annoyed at being stuck up to my cockpit I stepped out, worked the boat loose and recovered my paddle, lost when rock tore jacket, arm and boat.

The next event was this Gorilla thing... A sheer walled gap in solid rock with the whole rain flooded creek pounding through. Mojo and I watched as Joe and Pete took an airbagged tandem for a mystery move, emerging into the pool below unscathed. "I'm walking" Mojo announced, "me too" I chorused. I carried my boat along the narrow but convenient ledge above the drop on the left while Pete attempted it again in Mojo's boat with similar results.

We took out in twilight after an uneventful remainder, my only chances to play being when the open boats were bailing. Mojo kindly invited me to crash at his apartment, so we got a pizza and called it a night, but not before I saw his 1st place Ocoee Rodeo open boat ender ribbon.

Onward to Athens in more howling rainstorms in the morning, I got to Pete's slightly late to discover no one home. Shit. Then Pete pulled up saying he'd been out to check levels. We waited for the others, from the Georgia Tech. club, and took off the the Piney, another river that none of them had run. This was getting to be a habit. Driving up the Obed Valley Pete turns toward the ridge saying "our put in is up

near that radio tower". Now I couldn't figure out how a river starts at the very top of a mountain, but I had never paddled the Cumberland Plateau before.

A thousand feet higher up a switchback road it was clear, a plateau of rolling farmland provided the watershed for the river, which cuts a ten mile gorge dropping 800 feet through shale and slate. We found the put in quickly due to Pete's expert navigation and were soon floating down a quiet, tree overhung stream. Quiet not for long, it quickly picked up and soon we were at our first horizon line.

Barry got out, and came back saying "No problem, just boof that rock there on the left side". Okay, my first 'must-do' boof, dropping six feet of so into a frothing hole and out into the pool, cool. But there was no time for reflection as this group of experienced class IV - V boaters just kept it moving, barely playing, down this pushy, ledgy, holey river. It was challenging and exhilarating and only Pete knew it was the hardest river I'd been on. Finally there was a drop that required all of us out of our boats. We ran it but it involved dropping over a chute on far right, punching the hole at the bottom into an eddy on the right, so as not to end up in a fence of rocks and tree stumps. Then ferrying across to far left to avoid a nasty hole, ugly.

The rest of the run was more of the same and remarkably beautiful with sheer walls and overhanging vegetation. Then it was back to town, more pizza and Pete's place for a movie. We watched 'Point Break', about surfing adrenaline junkies. Barry and I slept on Pete's

*(Continued on page 17)*

## **Proposal (continued)**

So there you have it. A plan that has everything: information to help us better enjoy the rivers, unlimited government funding, an organized and efficient way to name rapids, a way to relearn history lessons we've long since forgotten, a catchy acronym, and a way to help conserve endangered rivers. I'm sure by now you're all probably thinking that this could be the greatest thing to happen to whitewater boating since duct tape. And you're probably trying to think of some way to thank me. Well there is one little thing. I'd like to have a rapid named after me. It doesn't have to be a Class V. This may be a good idea, but it's not quite up there with the Declaration of Independence. But certainly something more than a piddly little rock in a Class II section of an obscure river in northern New Hampshire. Perhaps a nice sporty Class III. I know -

## **Paddlers Prevail Coast Guard Rethinks PFD Regulations**

**Reprinted from Paddle Splashes**

News Release from the American Canoe Association

After a 7 month review process that included consideration of 400 comments from paddlesport organizations and individual paddlers, the U.S. Coast Guard has published its final ruling on the use of Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's). Canoeists and kayakers got most, if not all, of what they had requested during the comment period.

Campmoor add here

Portions of the original proposal that would have required a throwable Type IV cushion in each craft 16' or more in length have been dropped from the final regulations. The federal agency also reversed an earlier stand which would have required athletes in competition kayaks, racing shells and skulls to wear PFD's while training. The new regulations added racing canoes to the exempt class.

The Coast Guard did adopt some of the original proposals including one that would grant greater authority to states in establishing their own PFD regulations. They could not, however, over-ride the competition exemptions. The new regulations also ban Type IV throwable cushions as primary PFD's on craft under 16 feet. Each person on such a craft will now be required to carry a wearable PFD. Such a requirement has long been advocated by the ACA.

# A NOTICE TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

by Matt Giltner

YOU ARE WELCOME AT ALL CLUB FUNCTIONS!!!

It is very simple task, look in the newsletter, see who the meeting or trip coordinator is, and give them a call.

Most of the meetings are published in advance, you just need to contact the person who is holding it, and give them a call. For example, the next executive committee meeting will be held at the Alexanders in January. Ed and Miriam can be reached at 908-257-2179. HOW MUCH MORE OF AN INVITATION DO YOU NEED?

So your still unsure if the next river trip is for you, is it above your skill level? Maybe. You need to decide. A call to the trip coordinator could provide you the information you need to make the

decision. imagine a conversation something like this;

ring ring ring

MATHEW: Hello?

GNUBTER: Hi my name is Gnubter, I just joined KCCNY.

MATHEW: Good choice, what can I do for you?

GNUBTER: I saw your name as the trip coordinator for the GNU River, and wanted to know what I should do if I want to go.

MATHEW: Oh the GNU is a fun river, a solid class I. Pretty hairy.

GNUBTER: Hummm. Well I not sure I'm up to it.

MATHEW: It is very important that you know your limits. If you do want to come up, everyone will be staying at the STRATFORD ON AVON campground and Shakespearean theme park I will be bringing my Mountain bike there are great trails to ride.

GNUBTER: You mean If I come I don't have to paddle?

MATHEW: Not at all, most people will skip an afternoon or so, go hiking or stay around and baby-sit for the gang on the river. I understand Nancy Sklavos pays a premium for baby-sitters.

GNUBTR: Great!! I'll be there.....

Pretty simple huh? Don't be shy, we need all the new blood we can get. The "OLD GUARD" tends to form the backbone for any organization, look at congress. It is the new members that will help us progress and keep the club from becoming stagnant.

If this still is tough for you, and you want a formal introduction or invitation, call me at home @ 908-534-1465. For those of you with access to the INTERNET my address is PAMNMAT@AOL.COM, well I'm waiting.

## Tennessee by Storm(s) (continued)

living room floor and we got up wondering what was going to be runnable today.

Pete knew a creek he suspected was up and soon we were on Crab Orchard Creek. Another tributary of the Obed. It was a pretty little run with waterfalls along its banks and some fun playspots, but not on par with the Piney.

Unfortunately, none of the group were available to paddle my last day, but Pete had gotten a call from an acquaintance looking to paddle, so the next morning I was off down to the Ocoee to meet him. A fun run and I was headed back to Nashville for some more time with my understanding client and a flight back the next day with an already somewhat battered AQII checked in as a surfboard. Checked in, that is , after browbeating a counter clerk who was insisting that it was a windsurfer, at twice the price.

It was an unbelievable trip, in which I benefited

## Ending Notes

I know that there is snow outside and you had to scrape the frost from your windshield every day for the past week, but look at the good side... the pool sessions start next month. No more do you have to put on all of that extra clothing, and still get cold after 2-3 hours, now you can just wear a bathing suit and jump into the pool!

Kean College has been kind enough again this year to allow us the use of their pool, thanks to the support and work by Charles Peterson. Again I can't stress it enough that you please wash your boat out on the deck of the pool, even if you think that your boat is clean (inside and out) you may be surprised to find out how much dirt, sand and that sludge that is in your boat.

Speaking of such... that green junk that begins to infest your boat has been analyzed a while ago, and I was very surprised to hear that it is similar to the primeval sludge, of which most of the life forms that exist today started. If that thought doesn't make you wash your boat out REAL good then I don't know what will!!

I know that most of you have retired your boat and paddle for the winter, but there are quite a few of us that don't. I have long since given up my skis and that long line at the lift line for the vacant eddies and surfing waves that are prevalent at quite a few rivers that just seem to get better during the winter and

early spring months. If any of you are interested in winter paddling, listed below are the names and numbers of a few of the brave souls that paddle during all but the worst weather:

Dan Lenox 201-663-1364  
Jon Gellman 212-334-0824  
Bill Thomas 212-781-7080  
Alan Tindell 212-228-6249  
Vance Condie 212-678-0863

Just call any of us if you are interested in giving winter paddling a try. All you need is the right gear, a hearty breakfast, and the right attitude.

It's also that time of year that your KCCNY membership renewals are mailed to you for 1994. Please send in your dues to Pierre DeRham quickly, for delay may mean that you do not receive this newsletter any longer. If you have not received your renewal notice, then please contact Pierre.

News in brief from the last meeting is:

- FERC has rejected a hydro-station license application in New York, stating that it was economically unfeasible (a first!)

- Neversink Gorge has been condemned

- Woodstock Brewing has decided to become sponsors for the KCCNY Esopus Slalom. That means next year we will have NEW race bibs for next years race!!!

I would like to thank all of those people who contributed articles to this newsletter, but especially to Bill Holt for persuading advertisers and relieving me of that task.

In the past I have asked for contributions by KCCNY members to either help out or contribute articles and/or information to be used in this newsletter. The results are horrible... I find that there are far too many people in KCCNY that sit on their butts and contribute little or nothing to this organization, newsletter, and cruising schedule. If it were not for the core group of people, KCCNY would no longer exist.

I feel my contributions of days (not hours) EVERY newsletter to scrape together this rag and my prompting for assistance falls on deaf, and unappreciating ears. For the last time I am calling out for help. I am not asking for a lot, just 30 minutes per year! If 1/2 of you can send me some of the things I have asked for, or come up with ideas of your own, WE can have not only a good and informative newsletter, but a better kayaking organization. I am only one of a few that am asking for assistance, why not call someone on the executive committee and ask if he or she needs any help. Don't forget, they are donating their time too!! It's time to get off your butts.

# Members Mutual Agreement For Protection From Liability

Welcome to the river. In the interest of permitting the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (the "Club") to exist and to serve the paddling community without fear of liability, I ask you to join in this contract. The first part is for you to acknowledge that you understand the risks involved in this activity. The second part is a release from liability.

## *ASSUMPTION OF RISK*

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand and accept the following acts of life on a body of water: that paddling in watercraft exposes me to many hazards. No one but myself is responsible for judging my qualifications for my safety when I choose to challenge my capabilities by boating on particular body of water, or a particular rapid. I may assist my fellow paddlers to the best of my own ability if they appear to need such assistance, but only so long as I can do so, in my judgment, without significant danger to myself. I further understand that this does not imply any legal duty for me to do so, nor for any one else to render such assistance to me. Some of the dangers and risks which may be present or occur include, but are not limited to, the following:

The hazards of traveling in a watercraft in varying water conditions.

- 1) Hazards including boulders, trees and other obstacles, waterfalls, holes, reversals and other
- 2) water formations.  
Swimming/floating in unfamiliar and sometimes turbulent water.
- 3) Using paddles, ropes and other paddling equipment.
- 4) Hiking or walking in rugged terrain, including slippery rocks.
- 5) Injuries inflicted by animals, insects, reptiles or plants.
- 6) Accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities.
- 7) Man-made objects in the water including, but not limited to, ropes, bridge pilings, broken dams
- 8) and metal debris.  
Carrying watercraft and other paddling equipment.
- 9) The forces of nature, including lightning, weather changes, water level changes, and others
- 10) not named.  
The physical exertion associated with paddling and swimming and carrying watercraft on land.
- 11) Travel in a vehicle driven by other persons.
- 12) Now therefore, intending to be legally bound, I hereby waive, for myself and for anyone else

claiming through me, my right to sue the Club, it's members, trip coordinators or any of my fellow paddlers for any injuries to my person or my equipment which may occur during, in preparation for or in transit to or from a Club outing. The waiver applies to any negligent act or omission and to any intentional act intended to promote my safety or well-being.

I am solely responsible for deciding whether to participate in or to continue on any water trip. I assume these risks and understand my responsibility in decision making. My waiver has no expiration date.

---

Participant's Signature

---

Printed Name

---

Date

# KCCNY Trip Policy Statement

## A. General Policy

Club outings are cooperative adventures among participants. The **group** is collectively responsible for the conduct of the outing and **each participant** is individually responsible for judging his or her qualifications and for his or her safety on the river. By participating in a Club outing, you release the Club, its members, trip coordinators and fellow paddlers, from any injuries due to any negligent act or omission or to any intentional act intended to promote your safety or well-being.

## B. River Hazards

You must understand and accept that whitewater boating exposes you to various hazards, for example, boulders and other obstacles, strainers, undercut or entrapping formations, falls, holes, reversals and other water formations, changing conditions, cold, high water and other hazards, mostly in remote locations. Injuries and deaths occasionally occur due to these hazards, among other things. You are responsible for learning to recognize river hazards and learning and practicing the techniques for avoiding these hazards. You are also responsible for acquiring boating safety and rescue skills commensurate with the level of difficulty of the river you are paddling. One excellent source book is River Rescue by Bechdel and Ray, available at most outfitters. Don't endanger your life and the lives of others by trying to boat on water beyond your ability. Remember - most good paddlers develop by very gradually increasing the difficulty of rivers they run over a period of several years.

## C.

### River Decision Making

You are **solely** responsible for the following decisions at all times:

1. The decision to go on any trip.
2. The decision to put-in the selected river (which may not be the scheduled river) under conditions existing at the time of the put-in.
3. The decision as to what equipment to take with you.
4. The decision whether to scout any rapid.
5. The decision whether to run any rapid.
6. The decision on how to run any rapid.
7. The decision whether to participate in any rescue or recovery of any equipment.
8. The decision to pass up any walk-out or take-out opportunity.

## D.

### River Rescue

Trip participants usually assist each other when someone appears to need assistance, but only so long as they can do so, in their own judgment, without significant risk to themselves. Some participants may choose to accept greater hazards to rescue a fellow paddler. However, trip participants and the coordinator are under no **LEGAL** duty to assist anyone. In other words, while you are not legally obligated to assist anyone, no one is legally obligated to assist you either.

## E.

### Other Responsibilities of Participants

1. Telephoning the trip coordinator well in advance of the trip you are planning to go on.
2. Asking the trip coordinator about his or her training and experience, if these considerations are significant to you.
3. Informing the trip coordinator of your skills, experience, training and rivers run.
4. Not bringing unexpected guests to the trip.
5. Bringing appropriate equipment and making sure it is in good repair, specifically; life jacket, helmet, knife, whistle, throw bag, and extra clothing.
6. Observing good safety practices on the river.
7. Informing yourself of the difficulty of the river under existing conditions.
8. Sharing the optional group responsibilities.

## **KCCNY Trip Policy Statement (cont.)**

### **F. About Your Trip Coordinator**

Trip coordinators are volunteers and they receive no pay. Their functions are to get the group to the same river at the same time, to arrange the shuttle and to respond to inquiries to the best of their knowledge. However, your trip coordinator may never have run the scheduled river or may never have run the scheduled river under the conditions encountered on trip day. Indeed, the scheduled river may not be runnable on trip day, and the trip may be switched to an unfamiliar river on the spot.

### **G. Trip Coordinator Responsibilities**

1. Finding a substitute coordinator if you are unable to go on the trip and notifying the Cruise Chairman of the change.
2. Familiarizing yourself with the put-in, take-out and shuttle on the scheduled river.
3. Determining the rendezvous place and time.
4. Responding to participant inquiries to the best of your knowledge about the river, your training and experience, and the participant's training and experience. You have the authority to refuse a particular participant on any reasonable grounds, but it is NOT your responsibility to determine whether a participant is qualified for the trip.

### **H. Optional Group Responsibilities**

The group may wish to consider the following suggestions. Which of these suggestions is adopted on the trip is solely a group decision and is not the responsibility of any particular person:

1. Obtain river stage or flow data.
2. Obtain a knowledge of the difficult parts of the run and emergency take-out routes.
3. Equipment: throw rope in each boat, duct tape, first aid kit, extra paddle, flashlight, fire-starter and matches, pruning or wire coil saw, survival suit, extra clothing, carabiners, prusik loops, map, guide book.
4. Keep group compact enough for communication, but not so compact as to interfere with each other.
5. Consider dividing a large group into smaller groups or having a "buddy boats",
6. For further information, consult River Rescue by Bechdel and Ray.

### **I. Instructional Trips**

In this format, a person assumes the responsibilities of a trip leader. He or she may pass judgment on a participant's qualifications, check equipment and assume responsibility for the conduct of the trip, including the appointment of lead or sweep (rear guard) boats and other duties listed above as taken by the individual or the group as a whole. These trips must be clearly designated as 'Instructional Trips', as they could expose the leader to legal liability. Trip or personal liability insurance is recommended.

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