

❖ KCCNY Newsletter ❖

The Newsletter of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York

Volume XXXIV Issue 1

March 1994

1994 Executive Committee

Chairperson	<i>Nancy Sklavos</i>
Vice Chairperson	<i>Vance Condie</i>
Treasurer	<i>Helen Chase</i>
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Newsletter	<i>Daniel Lenox</i>
Safety	<i>Don Belcher</i> <i>Matthew Giltner</i>
Conservation	<i>Ken Fischman</i> <i>Pete Skinner</i>
Training	<i>Pierre DeRham</i> <i>Marion Greenfield</i>
Annual Race	<i>Phyllis Horowitz</i>
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Delegates at Large	<i>Ed Alexander</i> <i>Charles Peterson</i> <i>Ed Hanrahan</i> <i>Matt Moffitt</i> <i>Rich Desvernine</i> <i>Doug Feick</i> <i>Jon Gellman</i>
Pool Sessions	<i>Charles</i> <i>Peterson</i>
Annual Dinner	<i>Marion</i> <i>Greenfield</i>

KCCNY to Hold Rodeo

If you remember a number of issues ago I proposed the concept of having a national rodeo event at the West River. I seemed that at that time, while there certainly was interest, that it just wasn't going to happen. Well, during the last meeting of the KCCNY executive committee, Vance Condie proposed that KCCNY should sponsor it's own rodeo! The idea seemed good and the committee voted to try it out.

The site of the 1st KCCNY Whitewater Rodeo will be the West River, it will be held during the spring release, and will be open only to members of KCCNY. The rodeo contestants will not have exclusive access to the river, so some of the rules will be 'loosened up'. I am in the process of obtaining rules from Risa Shimoda-Callaway that AWA uses in conducting their rodeo's and they will be used as a basic guideline as to how we will conduct our rodeo, but will be adapted as needed.

We hope that there will be enough interest to have the following expert and intermediate classes:

K1 - Men's
K1 - Women's
C1 - Men's
C1 - Women's
Squirt - Men's
Squirt - Women's

(Continued on page 2)

Newsletter Staff

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233 Prospect Point Rd.
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201-663-1364

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201-447-5661

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P. O. Box 195
Garrison, NY 10524
914-424-3160

Please send all changes of address or phone numbers to the membership chairperson and NOT to the editor of the newsletter!

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 newsletter editor. If you want the picture and/or floppy disk to be returned, please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

KCCNY Rodeo (cont.)

We not only need contestants, but other volunteers for judging and safety, so all of those that would like to be involved should contact either Dan Lenox at 201-663-1364, or Vance Condie at 212-678-0863.

The K1 and C1 classes will consist of an ender competition at the 'main' ender spot, while the squirt classes will consist of eddy line and surfing competition elsewhere on the river. Some of the categories that contestants will be judged are:

Degree of difficulty
Performance
Execution (quality)

The executive committee decided to limit the competition in the rodeo only to KCCNYers, that way we shouldn't have to worry about liability issues. But you should have paid this year's dues and also have a current liability wavier on file.

We are not quite sure at this time exactly what the prizes will be. Historically I believe that rodeos give out mugs, but alas we have none at this time. The prizes will be determined sometime before the rodeo.

I know that all of this sounds very unorganized, and it is... but we are trying to pull this event off in a very short period of time, so bear with us, for we are paving the ground work for future rodeos.

Look in this issue of the newsletter for an entry form, fill it out and send it off as soon as possible if not sooner!

Dan & Vance

1994 KCCNY Auction

The third annual KCCNY auction will be held on Saturday June 4. This auction is to be held at Phyllis and Dennis & Phyllis McLane's trailer park in Phoenicia NY. Articles for the auction may be viewed between 5:00 an 6:00 PM, with the auction starting promptly at 6:00 (rain or shine). Yours truly, Dan Lenox, will again be acting as head auctioneer this year.

As usual, KCCNY will take either donated items or items that are to be sold on consignment. The consignment fee will be a flat 10% of the selling price. Any persons that wish to sell items should contact Dan Lenox at 201-663-1364.

A detailed list of items is not available at this time, but the items expected to be sold are:

- Kayaks and C1's
- Paddles
- Paddling Gear
- Clothing
- Camping Equipment
- Bicycles
- Work Out Equipment
- Professional Services
- ?????????

Woodstock Brewing has become a sponsor for the KCCNY Slalom, one side benefit is that they will also donate a keg of beer. This year the head auctioneer (and auction goers also) will NOT have to endure the hardships of a parched throat, and at no charge!!! All you will have to do is provide your own cup, mug, stein or whatever. All that we ask is that you drink responsibly.

So everyone plan on attending this years auction, even if you don't plan on buying anything, bring your chairs and mugs and join in on the fun. All proceeds from the auction will go to river conservation.

The Deerfield River Guidebook

Book Review by Dan Lenox

This is a new book published by New England Cartographics, Inc., and written by Bruce Lessels, Norman Sims, and Jim Dowd. The book retails for \$11.95.

The guidebook covers white water boating and fishing in all the sections of the Deerfield River, as well the major tributaries such as the West Branch, Cold River, and the South River. *The Deerfield River Guidebook* contains cautionary guidelines on running all the major drops, along with maps and photographs as well, and I found the book to be quite complete in its descriptions of all the drops.

The introduction covers the natural resources of the Deerfield Valley, including hiking and cross-country ski trails, and restaurants and lodging. The book is scattered with history of the valley and the impact of federal relicensing on the Deerfield River.

Approximately 1/3 of the book pertains to fishing along the river and describes all of the 'hot' spots, and there is a separate chapter that covers the Harriman and Somerset Reservoirs in Vermont.

If you ever ran the Deerfield, or are considering running it, either by boat or raft, then I would highly recommend getting this book.

New York Access Decision

Reprinted from AWA Journal

In late September, a state judge in New York offered a favorable preliminary decision regarding river passage in the Adirondack Park (Moose River). This ruling stated that the historical determination of river navigability (floating logs) was antiquated, and that the present definition of navigability included recreational use. While precursory, this offers a precedent setting opinion

regarding a high profile case on public access rights.

If their ruling is not overturned, which seems unlikely at this time, this may offer a strong incentive to other states to update their rulings regarding access to public river resources. This ruling came about due to a trespass case developed by the New York Sierra Club and their paddling members.

Welcome New Members

DANIEL & HELEN DUDDY
911 McLean Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704
914-237-0889

BRIAN & CHRIS GERMAIN
118 Union Place
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660
201-807-1823

MEL & MARTINA CASSIDY
21-46 77 St. #2C
New York, NY 11370
718-728-2327

STEPHEN NOZZA
1090 King Georges Post Rd.
Edison, NJ 08837
908-719-9864

ART BLOCK
784 Columbus Ave, #14N
New York, NY 10025
212-678-7927

SARA HAZELWOOD
240 Mercer St, #2003
New York, NY 10012
212-473-1421

DEBORAH LEVINE
2000 Linwood Ave, Apt 15J
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
201-592-7108

LORI KHAN
500 2nd Ave., #16E
New York, NY 10016
212-779-4573

ROBERT MAURIZI
699 Houses Corner Rd.
Sparta, NJ 07871
201-383-8037

HERBERT POHOLKA
136 Bryant Pond Rd.
Putnam Valley, NY 10579
914-528-1628

Change of Address

GERALD BOYER
c/O Bellcore
445 South St., Room 2F275
Morristown, NJ 07960
201-829-4190

JIM & ROBERT BROHIMER
314-A Broadway
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
201-796-9240 (H)
201-656-3392 (W)

DANA & PAIGE CASTRO
204 Whisconier Rd.
Brookfield, CT 06804
203-740-8633 (H)
203-748-1760 (W)

PETER SCHOENBERGER
95 West Saugerties Rd.
Woodstock, NY 12498
914-679-5623

DANIEL SHERR
PO Box 727
Morganton, GA 30560

NANCY SHIBER
472 West Englewood Ave.
Teaneck, NJ 07666
201-833-9537 (H)
201-599-6627 (W)

RON & LISA RYASON
3 Millwood Rd.
Lake Carmel, NY 10512
914-228-5620 (H)
914-946-7400 (W)

PETER SHOLANDER
500 Northside Circle, APT HH2
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-355-2289 (H)

NANCY & CAMERON SKLAVOS
P.O. Box 247
Sparta, NJ 07821
201-663-5227

Computer User's Joystick Sliced off While Sleeping

Due to what is believed to be a copy-cat crime, an unidentified computer user was checked into a local hospital the other day. He evidently fell asleep while working at his computer and awoke in the middle of the night. He looked down and to his horror discovered that three-fourths of his joystick had been cleanly sliced off.

When questioned, his ex-girlfriend admitted to the charges, saying that for the past year he had paid more attention to his computer than to her. Apparently the ex-girlfriend had fled the scene with the sliced piece still in hand and tossed it out a car window. The severed joy-stick was later found by police in a vacant lot next to a nearby playground. However, it seems that two dogs mistaken the missing member as a dog bone, and were attempting to bury it. Unfortunately a portion of it was chewed off by one of the dogs before it was recovered.

Surgeons have since sewn the stick back on, but it seems to misfire after a few minutes of use. Doctors predict that the joystick should perform normally in five to six months. The computer user is currently receiving psychoanalysis as a result of the incident because of a sudden attraction to fire hydrants.

NOC Opens New Store

Busy throughout the winter, the Nantahala Outdoor Center employees have been constructing a new outfitters store to meet the growing guest needs for more products and services. Located on the same Nantahala riverside location as the old store, the new building retained much of the "folksy" country charm and character of the old store. The grand opening festival will be Saturday April 9 and coincides with the annual Spring Splash Festival.

The two story new outfitters store features more retail space, new product lines, better parking and finally a much needed water fountain and faucet to fill up water bottles. Stop by if you are in the NOC neighborhood, fill up your water bottle, grab a Ben and Jerry's, peak out on the back porch and then go check out two floors of the latest outdoor recreational sportswear and equipment

The Nantahala Outdoor Center is located on US Hwy 19/74, 30 minutes from Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The store hours will be expanded to 8 am - 8 PM daily in April and 8 am - 9 PM for May through August. To find out more about the NOC Spring Splash or Grand Opening call or write:

Nantahala Outdoor Center
13077 Hwy 19 West
Bryson City, NC 28713
704-488-6737

New Wave Add

Whitewater Fatalities: Reviewing the Past Decade

Compiled by Lee Belknap from data collected by Charlie Walbridge
Reprinted from December 1993 AWA Journal

During the past ten years white water recreation has become increasingly popular and it's enthusiasts more skillful. As a result, the limits of the sport have been pushed ever higher. Unfortunately, during this time the list of fatalities among skilled white water boaters has grown to over one hundred.

As part of the AWA's ongoing effort to improve white water safety through education, a review was performed of the fatal accidents reported by Charlie Walbridge in "The Best of the Whitewater Safety Task Force Newsletter" and the "Whitewater Safety Task Force, Volumes II and III".

Ignoring 27 dam related incidents, most commercial incidents, and several incidents involving boaters with practically no white water experience, our evaluation of the remaining 100 incidents indicated that the top three killers of experienced white water paddlers were: Pins (25%), Long swims (25%), and Swimming into entrapments (15%).

Dam related incidents were excluded from the study because many did not involve white water boaters and because the reporting of such incidents is thought to be incomplete. Most deaths involving commercial operations were excluded because of the relative inexperience of the victims and because it is difficult to obtain reliable information about these accidents due to potential

litigation.

A few commercial fatalities were included, when the circumstances which contributed to the death were clearly applicable to experienced non-commercial paddlers as well.

The category of Pinning incidents included those on rocks, bridge abutments, and undercut; vertical pins, pins on debris and two white water boaters who were literally sucked under while still in their boats by peculiar currents (one a steep creek, and one in a squirt boat in very high water). Boaters who died from entrapment in trees (9%) were not included in the pin category.

Deaths attributed to long swims were just that; long swims in very fast, difficult water.

The category of swimming into entrapments included those who perished out of their boats while attempting self rescue. Eleven percent of the fatalities involved swimming into trees and 4% involved foot entrapments.

What can be concluded from all of this? How can each one of us avoid becoming another depressing statistic?

The number of deaths that occurred as a consequence of swimming is somewhat surprising and raises a number of issues. Perhaps the old adage that "If you aren't swimming once in a while, you aren't pushing yourself hard enough", has become obsolete, especially when applied to

advanced boaters in Class V and VI water.

There is much to be said for having a 100% bomb proof roll and a healthy respect for the power and difficulty of white water, especially at unusually high or low flows. Boaters need to honestly consider the limits of their own abilities before undertaking a difficult river descent. Of course, occasional swims are inevitable, but those who swim should be educated to avoid rocks, debris, and strainers where entrapments can occur.

In recent years many new boaters have progressed to advanced status rapidly, accomplishing in months what used to take years. Unfortunately, their river reading skills and their appreciation of the dangers inherent in running difficult, technical white water is often limited by their lack of experience. More experienced boaters paddling with such individuals should do their best to call attention to these hazards.

What else can we do about all of this? You tell us... the Letters to the Editor Section of this magazine (the AWA Journal) represents a fine forum for discussion.

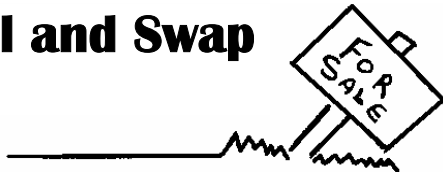
We also encourage boaters to report all fatal accidents to Charlie Walbridge at 230 Penllyn Pike, Penllyn PA 19422.

New Jersey Paddler add

Free Private Boater Shuttle on the Nantahala River

Nantahala River Outfitters (NOC) will be offering FREE private boater shuttles on the Nantahala River this Summer and Fall. The shuttle leaves from the rentals building (on river left near Slow Joe's Cafe). The schedule varies by day of the week and time of the year, so your best bet is to call the NOC at 704-488-2175 before your trip for the current schedule. The shuttle will be in operation through October.

Buy, Sell and Swap



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 212-334-0824

FOR SALE

Perception Corsica Proline, used 6X

Call Bill Hladky at 914-472-5882

FOR SALE

Perception Dancer has metal foot-pegs and cockpit cover

Call Herb Paholka at 914-528-1628

FOR SALE

Projet squirt boat and other goodies

Call Nancy Sklavos at 201-663-5227

WANTED

and

Stable, good tracking canoes

kayaks in reasonable condition.

Call Gene Langlinais at
804-966-9094

Klepper add

1994 KCCNY West River Rodeo Entry Form

Name : _____
Address : _____
City : _____
State : _____ Zipcode : _____
Phone : ____ / ____ ~ ____

Sex : Male Female
Skill Level : Expert Intermediate Beginner
Class : K1 C1 Squirt

No, I don't want to compete but I wish to be considered
for the following :

K1/C1 Judge Squirt Judge Safety

Send this entry form to:

Daniel Lenox
233 Prospect Point Rd.
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 0784
201-663-1364

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, Phili 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	

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

Campmor add

National River Cleanup add

1994 Cruising Calendar

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
3/5 - 3/6	I - A	Catskill Area	Ken Fischman (212)228-5753
3/12	I - A	Nescopek	Ed Hanrahan (201)226-4582
3/12 - 3/13	A	Tohickon	Andy Laiosa (718)798-5442 *remember, race taking place, cruisers, be respectful of the course*
3/26 or 3/27	A	Coordinator's Choice	Penny Giles, Skip Wilson (201)666-0550
4/??	A	Fish Creek	Bonnie Townsend (201)871-1842 (call with interest)
4/2 - 4/3	A	West Virginia	Joe Hanerfeld (201)444-7548 (call before Mar. 26th)
4/9	A	Pocono Area	Ken Fischman (212)228-5753
4/9 or 4/10	A	Bulls Bridge, Housatonic	Dana & Paige Castro (203)740-8633
4/9 - 4/10	I - A	Down South - Week of Rivers	Ken Sanders (717)629-5533
4/16 -4/17	A	Tygart, Middle Fork	Ken Sanders (717)629-5533 (contact before April 1st)
4/23 or 4/24	I - A	Moodna	Tom Gustanis (914)986-1414
4/23 - 4/24	I - A	West River Release	???
4/23 - 4/24	I - A	1st KCCNY West River Very Informal Rodeo!	Vance Condie (212)678-0863 Dan Lenox (201-663-1364)
4/30	I	Housatonic, Covered Bridge Section	Paul Epstein (914)297-7120
4/30 or 5/1	N	Delaware	Jane Bernstein (201)652-5058
* Early May*	I - A	Cheat & Big Sandy First timers trip	Ken Sanders (717)629-5533
5/7 or 5/8	ALL	Mongaup River Cleanup	Matthew Giltner (908)534-1465
5/7 or 5/8	N	Delaware River	Marian Greenfield (212)483-2184

1994 Cruising Calendar (cont.)

DATE	SKILL	RIVER / LOCATION	COORDINATOR / PHONE NUMBER
5/21 or 5/22	I	Hudson River, Riparius Section	Paul Epstein(914)297-7120
5/21 - 5/22	ALL	Esopus Cleanup	Phyllis Horowitz McLane (914)688-5569
5/28 - 5/30	I - A	West Virginia	Tom Gustanis (914)986-1414
5/28 - 5/30	I - A	Yough	Marian Greenfield (908)321-1354 Pam Dellea (908)534-1465
6/4 - 6/5	ALL	KCCNY Annual Auction KCCNY Esopus Race Weekend	Dan Lenox (201)663-1364
6/4 - 6/5	N - I	Esopus Cruisers	Matthew Giltner (908)534-1465
6/11	N	Delaware	Ron Ryason (914)228-5620
6/11 - 6/12	I - A	Black River	Dan Lenox (201)663-1364
6/25 or 6/26	I	Lehigh, (pending water)	Bill Holt (201)447-5861
6/26	I - A	Deerfield	Bill Thomas (212)781-7080
July and or Aug.	N - I	Lower Sacandaga	Paul Epstein (914)297-7120 (call with interest)
* Upper Yough Kayak/Raft trip, Usually the third week in July			Ken Sanders (717)629-5533
7/2 - 7/4	I - A	AWA Kennebec River Festival	Phyllis Horowitz McLane (914)688-5569
7/9 - 7/10	I - A	Deerfield	Alan Tindel (212)228-6249
7/9 - 7/10	?	Esopus Release	???
7/10	I	Advanced Strokes for Intermediates	Ed Hanrahan (201)226-4582
7/16 - 7/17	I - A	Black River	Dan Lenox (201)663-1364
7/23 - 7/24	I - A	Deerfield Release	???
7/24	ALL	Play Day	Dave Church (914)739-0613
7/30 - 7/31	I	Deerfield (Zoar Gap)	Andy Laiosa (718)798-5442 (H)
7/30 or 7/31	ALL	Play Day, Mongaup Wave	Penny Giles (201)666-0550
8/6 - 8/7	I - A	AWA Deerfield Fest	Phyllis Horowitz McLane (914)688-5569
8/6 - 8/7	N	Deerfield Area	Doug Feick (914)332-9774
8/13 - 8/14	N - I	Esopus Release	Alan Tindel (212)228-6247
8/20 - 8/21	I - A	Deerfield Release	Jon Gellman (212)334-0824

1994 Cruising Calendar (cont.)

DATE	SKILL	RIVER / LOCATION	COORDINATOR / PHONE NUMBER
8/20 or 8/21	I - A	Black River	Dan Lenox (201)663-1364
8/27 - 8/28	I - A	Deerfield Release	Bill Thomas (212)781-7080
9/3 - 9/5	A	Kennebec/Ponobscot	Jackie & Vance Condie (212)678-0863
9/10	I	Pocono/Catskill Area	Andy Laiosa (718)798-5442 (H)
9/10 - 9/11	I - A	Hudson River	Bruce Farrenkoph (908)707-9532
9/17	I - A	Deerfield Release	???
9/24 - 9/25	I - A	West River Release	???
10/2	I - A	Deerfield Release	???
10/2	ALL	Executive Meeting	Helen Chase
10/2 - 10/3	N - I	Esopus Release	???
10/8-10/10	I - A	Yough River	Matt & Liz Moffitt (908)446-5389
10/22-10/23	I - A	Pocono or Catskill Area	Jon Gellman (212)334-0824
11/5 or 11/6	I - A	Tohickon River	Dan Lenox (201)663-1364
11/19	ALL	KCCNY Annual Dinner	Marion Greenfield (212)483-2184

***** OTHER TRIPS, BUT NO SPECIFIC DATE YET*****

- Alan Tindel (212)228-6249 - Ocean Surfing
- Heath Bingham (914)271-5687 - Lehigh (Spring or Fall, waiting for release dates)
- Dan Krupka (908)273-6570 - Lehigh (Spring, waiting for release dates)
- Pete Sholander (404)355-2289 - Pete lives down in Athens, Tennessee. If you're in the area he may be able to boat with you or perhaps hook you up with some other boaters!

*****OTHER NOTES*****

- Many thanks to Doug Feick for helping to put together the cruising calendar!
- Many, Many thanks to those that could help out by coordinating a trip
- There are still lots of blanks in the calender, Please take a look at your schedules and give me a call at (212) 678-0863, if you can lead a trip!

Spring Paddling, and Beyond!! by Don Belcher

After a warm fall that lasted into December, I was afraid winter would never come! Not to worry! We finally got loads of freezing rain (yuck), then a foot of beautiful snow to fill the rivers this Spring. (Not to mention I love to play in the snow anyway.) So fluff up your pile sweaters, fill your airbags (no leaks I hope), and don your drysuits. This spring we may be able to open a few new "unnavigable" rivers, fortunately without having to float logs down them first!!

Watch out, though, mother nature may be testing a few concourses herself, and placing a few trees just where your kayak wants to go. Scout the rivers carefully, especially tight bends you can't see around. Additionally, a high volume of water can significantly change the characteristics of even your favorite playspots. Test the current a bit before you take off downriver. Don't let a swift current suddenly sweep you downriver while the rest of your group is still on the river bank, donning warm gear.

Before you get too cold, though, I'd like to shift your thoughts to warmer paddling, say, July?, on the Esopus? How can that relate to Spring paddling? Well, hopefully you won't encounter any situations this Spring that require boat extrication techniques, or worse, rescuing another paddler from a cold, unforgiving river. I'd rather all of us were experts, and there were no need to use our throw ropes, first aid kits, or rescue training. Unfortunately, even expert paddlers can get into trouble, and their rescue can be greatly compounded by the nature of the waters they paddle on.

Fortunately, KCCNY offers all of us a chance to practice the skills that might save one of our companions some day. Our Safety Weekend has become an annual event to make new members aware of rescue techniques and the use of safety equipment. But it is also intended for all of us, no matter our paddling skills. I would like to see more of our intermediate and advanced paddlers joining in, and Matt Giltner and I, as your Safety co-chairpersons, would like your input into what events we might include during the weekend to hone your rescue skills.

Last year, with Andy Laiosa and I as co-chairs, we took a general approach to covering the basic techniques of river rescue, but the weekend was far from boring. Dennis McLane covered basic knots, and gave us a dynamic demonstration of the advantage gained by using pulleys instead of carabiners in a Z-drag setup. George Cartamil presented first aid, and opened our eyes to the complexity of victim transportation, using a backboard to demonstrate. Andy involved all of us in a demonstration of techniques for moving as a group in the water, sometimes up to belly deep on Bert Minerly, (which is chest deep for most of us.) If you missed the stories, I provided entertainment by running railroad rapid without a paddle, having given mine to one participant who lost his during a swim. (My thanks to Dan Lenox and Andy Laiosa for backing me up while I made the approach to the main drop.) We also practiced throwing our throw bags, highlighting the fact that it's hard to get a rope to someone swimming even in a moderate current.

As a paddling club, of course, we like to spend every chance to play on the river we can get. Our aim for the Safety Weekend is the same. We would like to take advantage of the warm weather and a non-threatening environment to make the practice of rescue techniques be play time. Thanks to Dennis and Phyllis McLane, we have been able to use their property for the staging of this event, and past weekends have included a barbecue on Saturday night. I would like to see this continue, but last year I was too involved planning the weekend to plan the barbecue too. Maybe some of our expert chefs can help in organizing one this year.

Take some time to come play with us, and if you would like to share some of your expertise, talk to Matt or me about helping us to set up events for the weekend. Meanwhile, I hope to see many of you on the river this Spring, although MY weekend doesn't start until midnight Friday night, as I work from 4 P.M. until midnight, Monday through Friday. I may be sleeping Saturday morning while you're playing among the rocks and surging whitewater. Scout frequently, take extra clothes, hot beverages, and lots of warm BODIES. Give our editor some support, and the rest of us some enjoyment by regaling us with trip reports. And take lots of PICTURES!! I'll want to see them all at the Safety Weekend this summer.

Just Rambling... by Ed Alexander

... Here I am sitting at my desk and reflecting, it should almost be time for our executive committee to meet in their first session of the new year. Yet, old man weather has, once again, played a trick and caused us to postpone the meeting for another week. Many of your elected representatives have been snowed in, iced in or perhaps even both. I have spent the last two days chopping ice out of my driveway in order for all you to safely arrive at my house. Well, I'm almost done and hope that we can keep it clear for the rescheduled meeting.

Unfortunately my column was missing from the last newsletter. Many thoughts had entered my mind which I wanted to share with the membership, but had to miss the deadline because we left a few days after the last meeting on an important trip. So allow me to make up for the lost time and refresh my thoughts reviewing our annual meeting and also share with you some impressions we had talked about in the past. Some have recently reappeared in news reports. Perhaps more favorable to our way of thinking than earlier feared.

Again our compliments to Marion Greenfield for having arranged a super place and dinner for our annual conclave at O'Conner's in the Watchung Mountains of New Jersey. Had we not all enjoyed this place in 1992 with a wonderful turn out? There were many fine comments and requests for a

return to the same place. ...And where were YOU this year..??..

It was disappointing to have so comparatively few members show for such an important meeting. In a democratically run organization, we all have an obligation as partners in the responsible administration of KCCNY. With the privilege of membership in our club comes, what some consider a burden, a duty of participation, not only in the boating activities, but also in the every day successful government. No, we do not expect everyone of our 250 or more members to assume such responsibility, but we expect to listen to your thoughts, to your wishes, to your recommendations by providing us with your REPRESENTATION through your elected officials. Think about it and consider that the programs and schedules could better reflect YOUR wishes if you would not 'just let George do it'. The meetings of the executive committee are always open and each and every member in good standing is always invited and welcome to attend to participate in our deliberations for the good and the betterment of KCCNY.

In a recent newsletter, we discussed the Passaic River dilemma, resolutions proposed by the Passaic River Coalition vs. the Army Corps. of Engineers. It is a difficult problem which cannot and will not easily be resolved. The prohibitive cost involved in the proposed Passaic River Tunnel project on the drawing board of

the Corps. of Engineers will not only cost the tax payers and their future generations dearly, but more importantly destroy much more of the ecology and the natural resources it is already threatening.

Our new Governor, Christine Whitman, appears to be more inclined to subscribe to the environmentalists' thought of disallowing the Tunnel Project to succeed and in turn to validate the idea of purchasing the properties effected by the floods at their fair market prices, allowing the natural environment and its

resources to cause evolution to refurbish its natural beauty and its healthy water supply as well as the wild life habitat. In supporting this latter plan, I can also understand the objections which may be raised by those home owners whose properties will be effected. It will take much time, information and education to find acceptance in the effected flood plains. However, with recent recurrent flood disasters and subsequent losses, area occupants may find the comparative cost of future taxes vs. the sale of their properties of considerable advantage.

Let's support the Passaic River Coalition, what they stand for and trust that the New Jersey Legislature will also allow conservation and ecology to succeed.

Conservation Notes & Updates by Doug Feick

The Mongaup River

Due to complaints on advertising releases (originating primarily from AMC), FERC has demanded that Orange & Rockland Utilities follow to the letter the release procedures outlined in their current license. Whether this will produce the kind of overcrowding found on rivers like the Tohickon remains to be seen.

Note that the Mongaup River Cleanup is slated for the weekend of May 7-8. Last year KCCNY was under represented in this effort. Please, get out there this year if you can. We spearheaded the effort to open this river up for boating, let's show we still care.

Notes from last Executive Meeting

We received a number of proposals from various organizations for our conservation dollars, far more in fact than our limited resources

could accommodate. The following organizations received our support this year:

- New York Rivers United - they have been organizing opposition to the proposed residential development on Fish Creek, working to change FERC relicensing procedures to reflect overall hydro impact on entire river basins, and seeking protection for the waters of the Whitney Estate for the proposed Oswegatchie Great Wilderness.

- American Whitewater Affiliation - has initiated the "Private Lands River Access Project" this year. The project seeks to improve public access to 25 recreational rivers currently undergoing FERC hydro relicensing. AWA has targeted sites in seven states, with most of the rivers located in New York state.

- Passaic River Coalition - has opposed the flood tunnel proposed by the Army Corps. of Engineers, although the project is on hold, it is far from dead. The Corps. has earmarked about \$10 million of their new budget for continued 'studies' and PRC is continuing their campaign to simply buy out the 554 homeowners on threatened floodplain areas as the only long term and cost effective solution to the flooding problem.

- Natural Resources Defense Council - is leading the effort in this country to save what's left of the James Bay Wilderness area. New York and the northeast states continue to contract power from Hydro Quebec, the giant utility that would flood vast portions of eastern James Bay and alter the rivers and drainage patterns of an even greater area for all time. The

Whitewater in Kansas City? Maybe. By Larry Meyerson

Amazing as it might seem about 20 experienced (Jimi Hendrix Style) hard boaters live in the Kansas City metro area. Banded together under the creative name of The Kansas City Whitewater Association, these burn-outs take pleasure in running local drainage ditches around the area. Not to mention taking part in boating the nearby pristine Ozark waterways.

Now one of the best kept secrets here in South Kansas City is the little known Blue River (class I - III). This river (really a creek) is a tributary of the Missouri.

You better believe we had torrential rains in the Midwest last

year. This gave the locals many opportunities to run the Blue. For most people its a 15 minute drive from their current hussle and requires an 8 minute shuttle. This means weekday boating! The white water run is 5 miles in length which pretty much parallels Holmes Road, boasting about 10 fun play rapids which never gets spooky, not even in flood (with the exception of the last drop - a low head dam which has a bad backwash).

The Blue does a bit of meandering and is not too trashed out since we have some ecologically minded folks in this area who participate in river cleanups. The locals have a boaters gauge painted on the Red

Bridge abutment which is also the take out and city park. Minimum running level is 1 foot (pretty boring), while 3' 6" is wonderful with really active surfing, and 25' is extreme flood with a pre-put-in interview by the cops as a sanity check. None of the rapids are named they are just there for the taking. Flow ranges between 300 cfs to 2,000 cfs. Another nicety about the Blue is it borders on Minor Park, which has really neat mountain biking trails. Stay tuned for more sniblets. Next: in town ends on Kansas City's Kaw River and hole riding on the Indian Creek.

1994 Events Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 2-3, Olympic Trials #3, Ocoee River - April 10, Fall Creek Slalom, Ithaca NY, contact Barry Butterfield at 607-659-5389 - May 1 - Sept 16, Nikon Canadian Canoe Photo Contest 519-473-2109 - May 7 or 8, Mongaup River Cleanup, contact Matthew Giltner at 908-534-1465 - May 14-21, Third Annual National River Cleanup Week, call 800-524-4814 - May 16-17, US Slalom Team Trials, Ocoee River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 19-20, US Wildwater Trials, Ocoee River - May 21-23 Southeastern US Championships, Nantahala River - May 28, Riverfest, Bryson City, NC, contact Steve Claxton at 704-488-6159 - June 4-5, KCCNY Esopus Slalom, Phoenicia NY, contact Phyllis Horowitz-McLane at 914-688-5569 - June 5, Third Annual KCCNY Auction, contact Dan Lenox at 201-663-1364 - June 29, Finlandia Clean Water Challenge
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Seek Snake Releases

Reprinted from AWA Journal

On behalf of the intermountain whitewater community, Mark White, an AWA Regional Coordinator from Salt Lake City, has asked the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation to conduct a formal study to determine the feasibility of scheduling releases from the Milner Dam on the Snake River. The Milner section run is 17 miles long and terminates in Twin Falls.

During the wet years of the early 80's, the Milner section of the Snake flowed at 15,000 to 20,000 nearly all summer long. Paddlers from Idaho, Utah and Wyoming enjoyed whitewater that rivaled that of the Grand Canyon only a few hours from their homes. But from 1986 through 1992, no water was spilled from the Milner Dam.

This year the Milner Dam spilled 15,000 cfs for one week, then ran at 1,700 cfs for one month. Even at this lower level it is said to be a worthwhile run.

White is cooperating with Liz Paul of Idaho Rivers United in this effort to obtain regularly scheduled recreational releases. They are currently compiling a list of boaters who would be interested in such releases. To register your support, send your name and address to Mark White at 2034 E. Hubbard Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, 801-582-3445 or contact Liz Paul at 208-242-7481.

Coldbrook add

Ending Notes by Dan Lenox

Here we are with another year that has come and gone, has brought changes both good and bad. On the bad side, last year we lost a number of friends in the paddling community, but on the good side this looks like a bumper year for paddlers. Not only are river access issues being addressed, but many rivers have either been reopened or additional releases on rivers are being provided, which creates even more opportunities for paddlers.

It seems that this year, that there are more groups active in obtaining or expanding the rights of individuals to be able to use our national resources. A few of these groups are:

- FERC
- New York Rivers
- AWA
- ACA
- Sierra Club
- River Conservation Int.
- Idaho Rivers United
- WV Rivers Coalition

These are only a few of the many groups that have worked long and hard, and it is these efforts that all of us should applaud and support.

This year marks the 1st KCCNY West River Rodeo. I am personally very happy that the KCCNY executive committee decided that it is about time we had a rodeo in the North East. The rodeo is however, only open to KCCNY members, but who knows if we can get some attention, next year it could become a national event!!! So if you are not going to enter

then how about lending a hand, we need not only judges for the competition, but also people that will act as safety (both on shore and also in boat). If you can't participate directly, then how about a few of you getting your vcr cameras out and video taping the action. It would be great to put together a video that we could play at the next annual dinner...

You may have noticed a slightly different appearance in this issue of the newsletter. Well the reason being is at the last KCCNY meeting the executive committee has agreed to purchase a printer for the club. The printer suggested (and the one purchased) is an Okidata OL400e LED printer. You might ask 'what the heck is an LED printer?'. Well this type of printer is very similar to a laser printer with the exception that it used LED's to put the image onto the print drum. As you can see, it gives a *very* nice appearance to our rag. I was very happy to see that our club has decided to put some money into it's own organization realizing that we also have needs. The printer will be used by whoever is the newsletter editor in future years.

We at KCCNY also have a new executive committee this year, but basically it's the same core group of individuals. Maybe you could ask if you can lend a hand sometime, many of them could use it! How about helping setting up the gates for our annual slalom, or during river clean-up week. If nothing else, at lease sign up to coordinate a river trip, we can always use more trips, even if it is

just at your favorite play spot. Speaking of the KCCNY slalom... the next issue will contain entry forms, so fill them out and send them in early. Also don't forget about the 3rd annual KCCNY auction race weekend. We are looking for either donations or items that are to be sold on consignment. Last year the auction had a rather poor turn-out because of the inclement weather, but this year we will be providing a keg of beer to help entice auction goers to come, no charge!!! All you will have to do is provide your own cup, mug, stein or whatever. The fees for consignment are a flat 10%. All proceeds will go towards conservation.

Don't forget about hypothermia while paddling out there this spring. It can sneak up on you, and it is a killer. So be prepared, even if the weather is warm, don't dress as if you were NOT going to swim! There are many good articles and books on the subject, read up on it, recognize the symptoms, and take action as soon as possible. Remember, the victim is rarely aware of what is happening and it affects their judgment. So keep an eye on each other for irrational actions and slow responses.

I would also like to take the time to remind those people that are coordinating river trips to be sure and have non-KCCNY participants complete a waiver of liability that is also included in the back of each issue.

By the way, it is NEVER too late to

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:

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

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, its 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

Participant's Printed Name

Date

KCCNY Trip Policy Statement

General Policy

- A. 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.

River Hazards

- B. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

H. determine whether a participant is qualified for the trip.

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",
- I. 6. For further information, consult River Rescue by Bechdel and Ray.

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

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