

◆ KCCNY Newsletter ◆

The Newsletter of the Kayak and Canoe Club of New York

Volume XXXVII Issue 5

December 1997

1997 Executive Committee

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Vice Chairperson	<i>Jackie Condie</i>
Treasurer	<i>Joan Most</i>
Membership	<i>Pierre deRham</i>
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Training	<i>Marian Greenfield</i> <i>Pierre deRham</i>
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Competition Liaison	<i>Jim Raleigh</i>
Delegates at Large	<i>Vance Condie</i> <i>Ann Cali</i> <i>Helen Chase</i> <i>Gordon Trinkler</i> <i>Brian Meserlian</i> <i>Diane Lenox</i> <i>Catherine Murray</i> <i>Grant Draper</i>
Pool Sessions	<i>Gordon Trinkler</i>
Annual Dinner	<i>Ann Cali</i>
Web Site	<i>Daniel Lenox</i>

From the Chair by Bill Thomas

KCCNY's end of the year meeting turned out to be fun and interesting, thanks to an excellent dinner and the input of our "solid core" of paddlers. The annual dinner is held at the Newark Campus of Rutgers Univ., and arrangements are thanks to Ann Cali. About 30 paddlers attended the meeting which is open to all the membership. It's a great opportunity to discuss the issues concerning all aspects of our club, to share your season's experiences, and to meet other members.

The format of the meetings are reports from the executive committee members followed by open discussion. Joan Most, our Treasurer, reported a healthy outlook thanks in large part to the increase in dues. A detailed report is available. We have broken even on pool and race income and can look forward to next year.

Due to the unmistakable encouragement by Jim Raleigh, our Competition Liaison, and determined effort of Ralph Johns and Paul Epstein, the Race Chairs, the Esopus Race this year provided a great experience for a lot of people. Enthusiasm for next year will extend the competitive function of the club. Cheryl Shiber, Ralph Johns, and Andy Laiosa are the committee to organize a KCCNY Fall Downriver Race. A committee to investigate rodeo has been formed by Sean Coffey, Grant Draper, and Vance Condie. Slalom racing and instruction will appear on the cruising calendar. Team slalom sounds like high entertainment value. Nancy Shiber is now collecting auction items.

Membership has been dropping. We do struggle with this. For almost 40 years KCCNY has adhered to the highest standards in categories outlined by our executive committee. If you wonder what those are, or would like to be a part of it you are not only welcome,

(Continued on page 4)

Newsletter Submissions

This is your newsletter, the quality of each issue may be dependent 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 email, my address is dlenox@ssix.com

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.

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

Phone Numbers for KCCNY Executive Committee

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Ralph Johns	201-492-8423
Paul Epstein	914-896-0373
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Anne Cali	973-226-4582
Helen Chase	914-657-2107
Gordon Trinkler	908-688-1704
Brian Meserlian	973-697-9395
Catherine Murray	212-866-7921
Grant Draper	212-866-7921

Deadline for newsletters:

Feb 7
Apr 11
June 13
Sept 5
Nov 21

1997 Conservation Report

by Jane Bernstein

The Challenge Grant which I offered in November to raise money for New York Rivers United and American Whitewater Affiliation was a grand success. We raised a total of over seventeen hundred dollars for the two organizations. Many thanks to our members who generously contributed to this important cause. Special thanks goes to ANN CALI who offered an additional challenge grant at the Annual Meeting to match any contributions made that evening. Members certainly rose to the occasion and she gave a check for four hundred seventy five dollars. Ann - many, many thanks! To all members who contributed - many thanks.

I notified Bruce Carpenter of New York Rivers and Rich Bowers of AWA of our effort on their behalf and the result. I emphasized how much we appreciate their efforts and that we really want them to know how much we support them. They were both very appreciative and glad there are people out there, like us, who are behind them.

Bruce reports that they are still crossing the I's and dotting the T's of the tentative agreement with Niagara Mohawk, so he cannot make the details public as yet. He did say that because of the tentative agreement there will be a whitewater recreational notification system for all Niagara Mohawk Projects. This will include access points, (put in and take out for every release site) The agreement will provide whitewater releases throughout the project and a new web site where boaters will be able to get real time

information as to both releases and also natural flows that are boatable. There are Class 2, Class 3 and Class 5 Sections of the Racquette River. This river has been dry for the last fifty years.

There will be a new flatwater canoe route from Stillwater to the St. Lawrence River, with portages all the way down. There will be twelve thousand acres of Niagara Mohawk riparian land in the Adirondacks put into public ownership for conservation. NIRU also responded to FERC on the preliminary analysis on the Mongaup. It was essentially what AWA responded.

Rich Bowers (AWA) sent a very considered intelligent response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in response to the preliminary analysis of possible changes to Whitewater Boating flows for the Mongaup River. We joined in that response as we felt it was so well done that it would be best to join them. The conclusion to this six page response is as follows:

"Boating organizations request that the Commission include the following in final license amendments for the Rio Project:

- Change article 401 to include limited, scheduled two-turbine releases which correspond to existing releases for power production and which addresses the purpose, number of hours, weekday and weekend, and time of day for both one and two turbine releases.

-Include a specific number of two-turbine releases for recreation and power production, and which will provide guidance and incentive for improving whitewater.

-Amend article 407 to include both short term and advanced notice of both one and two-turbine releases, expand this notice to year round, and report on both weekday and weekend releases.

-Create a Web Page or link with an existing Internet site to announce and track releases.

-Change article 408 to include both NGO's and agencies in monitoring and reporting on recreation.

We believe that each of these recommendations are simple to implement, inexpensive and are compatible with existing project operations. In addition we believe that these recommendations should cause no additional concern to the applicant, agencies, local interests or other user groups. All of these recommendations require only better planning and improved management of existing conditions."

It takes several months for responses to come from FERC in these situations. And likewise for the Niagara Mohawk project it takes time, but Bruce is hopeful to have an agreement by February.

Again many thanks to members who so graciously responded to this important appeal.

From the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

you will find opportunities here. If not.....

The new paddler is looking for trips and instruction. We have an excellent calendar thanks to Cheryl Shiber, and all those who will soon be signing up to lead next year's trips. Pierre deRham and Dan Lenox will oversee pool sessions starting the first week of January. Instruction will be available. Gordon Trinkler again arranged our use of the Boys and Girls Club of Union NJ. KCCNY will also be sponsoring pool sessions in Kingston this year. Contact Nancy Donahue. Ed Hanrahan and Sean Coffey, Safety Chairs, will join instruction. Jon Gellman is distributing fliers to gear retailers and will look into a coupon offer. Membership forms will be included in the newsletter. Pierre deRham, Membership Chair, and Dan Lenox, Newsletter Editor, have worked a great deal to keep KCCNY's ability to communicate current.

Jane Bernstein, our Conservation Chair, has been in contact with AWA, NYRU, and FERC, among others. We are in compliance on the Mongaup. Jane and Ann Cali generously offered matching grants to which the membership responded. There are several regional issues in which KCCNY has a role.

Ann Cali announced the details of the Ed Alexander Scholarship. We hope that next years' recipient will be able to return to the club in the spirit of the award. Following election of offices, and dinner (which was really good), is the distinguished and not so distinguished awards ceremony. This years' above average contributions included Cheryl's strainer and news conference in Colorado (and lost boat); Bruce and Paulas' lack of inconsistency; Gordon's probe of culverts, barbed wire, and strainers on Deckers' Creek; Grants' epic swim on big water Lochsa; and my debacle at Yellow Pine.

The Jack Goldstein Award, which is a beautiful sculpture by Gerhard Mueller, was awarded to Dan Lenox, who as newsletter editor, does most of the work. Dan also edits the web page, and provides a internet server and bulletin board. He instituted the above awards for which we all are grateful. Congratulations Dan, and thanks to all who contributed to this paddling year. Looking forward to next year, don't miss it.

Dan Lenox Presented Goldstein Award

by Pierre deRham

The Goldstein Award was created to honor the memory of Jack Goldstein who was an organizer, founder and past chairman of KCCNY. Jack was a devoted paddler, camper and conservationist, whose inspirational leadership and excellence of character contributed greatly to the interest in whitewater boating everywhere. Above all he was a distinguished humanitarian who loved life and his fellow man.

Former recipients of the Goldstein Award are:

Edgar Alexander, Miriam Alexander, Robert Manning, Gerhard Mueller, Bonnie Bliss, Edward Bliss, Robert Nelson, Tom Daniel, Sandy Johns, William Huber, Ralph Johns, Anita Lustenberger, James Raleigh, Dennis McLane, Maria Daniel, Michael Malone, Ed Hanrahan, Ann Cali, Phyllis Horowitz, Helen Chase, Donald Mason, Ken Fischman, Charles Peterson, and Pierre de Rham

As chairman of the awards committee, Pierre de Rham presented the Goldstein Award to Daniel Lenox at this years Annual Dinner.

Dan, by his personal influence, character, and individual achievement has made a distinguished contribution to the welfare of KCCNY.

His greatest contribution to the club is serving as the Editor of the club's newsletter. This is just part of what he has done for the club. Dan also came up with the idea for the auction, held in conjunction with the annual race, and has ably served as the auctioneer. He was co-inventor of the club's special awards (Hole Hog, Window Shade, Strainer etc.) which are handed out at the annual dinner.

Dan served on the committee to investigate a club web page, and now serves as the web master keeping the paddling community abreast of the KCCNY happenings.

The many other small things which Dan does to keep the club functioning are too numerous to list, but are important none the less.

KCCNY Pool Sessions in Union NJ

Gordon Trinkler has successfully negotiated with the pool at the Boys & Girls Club in Union, NJ again this year.

Gordon has been able to arrange a total of 9 Sunday morning pool sessions, from 9:00 - 11:00 AM, beginning on January 4 and ending on March 15. The fee for using the pool is \$7.00 per person. You must be a paid member of KCCNY, and may bring in at most 1 non-member (must share a boat)

Everyone is required to wash the inside and outside of your boat prior to entering the water. Once in the pool, do NOT dump water from the boat directly into the pool, please move the boat onto the pool deck and dump it there.

There will be pool sessions on the following dates:

Jan. 4, 11, 25

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

Mar. 1, 8, 15

Directions:

FROM NORTH - Garden State Parkway exit #141, turn right onto Vauxhall Rd., left at traffic light, right at next traffic light (Morris Ave), 3 blocks turn right onto Jeanette Ave.

FROM SOUTH - Garden State Parkway exit 139B, bear right @ underpass, go left at Clock & Cannon, right onto Johnson Pl., left at traffic light (Morris Ave), 3 blocks turn right onto Jeanette Ave.

FROM 78 WESTBOUND - exit 50A, right at second traffic light, left at next traffic light (Morris Ave), go through 2 traffic lights turn left onto Jeanette Ave.

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KCCNY Pool Sessions in Union, NJ

Pool sessions are again to be held this year at the Boys & Girls Club in Union, NJ. They are scheduled for 9 consecutive Sunday mornings, January 4 to March 15 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Please note that there is one weekend in Jan where we do NOT have access to the pool!

The pool is on Jeanette Ave. in Union NJ, see previous page for directions.

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 \$7.00 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

You're KCCNY Membership Has Expired

Your annual KCCNY membership is about to expire. This will be the last newsletter that you receive until your membership is renewed.

On the next page you will find a KCCNY membership renewal form, please fill it out and send it to Pierre deRham.

Those that do not renew their membership by February 28 will be dropped from the membership rolls, so don't be left out!

There will not be a reminder!

KCCNY Pool Sessions in Kingston, NY

Nancy Donohue is starting pool sessions in Kingston, New York. You do not have to belong to any club nor join one in order for you to take advantage of this.

They should be on Monday evenings.

Pool sessions are expected to begin mid January and continue thru April. Approximate pricing will be \$5 per person/session.

All persons interested will need to sign up as soon as possible. For further information please contact:

Nancy Donohue at 914-687-7546

Campmoor Ad goes here

1998 KCCNY Renewal Form

It's time to renew your annual KCCNY membership. Use this form for renewal, there will not be a separate mailing for membership renewal, this will be the only reminder! If you do not renew your name will be dropped from the mailing list, and you will no longer be sent a newsletter. The current dues structure is as follows:

Regular Membership	\$17.00	
Family Membership	\$20.00	
Associate Membership	\$14.00	(more than 150 miles from Times Square)

Check at the top right corner of your mailing label to see what your dues will be for the coming year. If you have joined KCCNY after September 1, there will be a \$5.00 fee only.

Again this year we are asking that you make a \$3.00 contribution to go towards river conservation. This is particularly important in that the club treasury does not currently allow us to make the conservation donations that we would like to, so this is our only source of money dedicated towards conservation.

In addition, check your mailing label to make sure that your address is correct, also if your phone number has changed be sure to note it, New Jersey has had many area code changes please correct your phone number if you are affected by these changes!

Make any changes that are necessary on the form below, if your address or phone numbers are correct in the previous roster, do not enter them here.



Name : _____

Address : _____

Home Phone : _____ **Work Phone** : _____

If you would like to have your email address published in the roster please enter it here

Email Address : _____

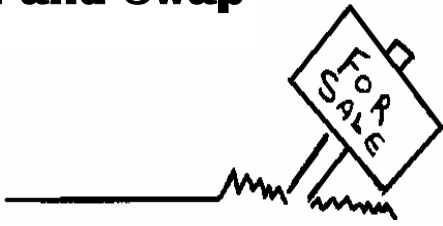
Membership Amount : \$ _____
Conservation Donation : \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed : \$ _____

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KCCNY Special Award Presentations

This years Special Award competition was a fierce one, with some of the best stories that have ever been heard courtesy of Bruce Farenkopf, Bill Thomas and Gordon Trinkler.

There were many good stories where paddling buddies and sometimes the participant, recounted that 'fateful' day. It's too bad that all of you were not there to enjoy them, but the next time you see any of these people, congratulate them and then ask them to recount to you the story behind the trophy.

Well congratulations to all of this years trophy winners:

Probe	-	Gordon Trinkler
Hole Hog	-	Gordon Trinkler
Strainer	-	Cheryl Shiber
Inconstant Roll	-	Paula Farenkopf
Window Shade	-	Bill Thomas
Epic Swimming	-	Grant Draper

KCCNY Executive Meeting

January 11, 1998 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will take place at Miriam Alexander's house. For information and/or directions call:

Miriam Alexander

Cruising Coordinator's

Corner by Cheryl Shiber

Many thanks to everyone who coordinated trips this year! The calendar had a wide variety of rivers and difficulty, and most every weekend from March through November was full. We had our traditional trips which consistently provide the bulk of the calendar, yet we also saw many new people leading trips on new rivers in 1997.

At the Annual Dinner, a lengthy discussion was had regarding which type of trips are most in demand. Beginner instructional trips and the longer trips seem to be taken advantage of most often. Weekend trips offered to the standard rivers are not as popular. For those trips, it is not uncommon for the trip to be canceled for lack of interest yet a dozen or so KCCNY paddlers show up at the river. The practice has become, show up at the river and find people to paddle with. I admit to participating in this practice; we all need our independence. However, sometimes only the novice paddlers go along with the trip coordinator while the experienced paddlers are on their own, yet on the same river. Unfortunately this means that the novices don't have the opportunity to learn from the more experienced paddlers. I don't want to lay a guilt trip on anyone (guilt has no place in the sport of paddling) I just wanted to bring the situation to your attention in case you never thought about it before. Perhaps a phone call to the trip leader, letting him/her know you'll be on the river that day would be nice.

Based on the feedback at the Annual Dinner and with paddlers on an ongoing basis, I hope to fill the 1998 calendar with more trips on lesser known rivers, more beginner instructional trips in the warmer months, and more 'first timer' trips which encourage intermediate paddlers to make the transition to more difficult rivers. Many members also expressed the desire to see racing and rodeo schedules in the calendar. Perhaps scheduled trips to the competition venues would be in

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demand. As you contemplate what trips you would like to coordinate this year, keep this feedback in mind.

I will try my best to put together a quality calendar for 1998 (Maybe this year I can even get the Tohikon releases right). But remember, the quality of the calendar depends on you, the trip coordinators. By the time this issue gets to you, I may have already called you to coordinate a trip, if not and you would like to coordinate a trip, please contact me. If you aren't sure where or when, I would be happy to offer suggestions.

Trip Report by Eugene Langlinais

Wilson's Creek

9 Friday afternoon and Julie suggested that this would be the perfect weekend to flee Richmond VA and head out to her old haunt Wilson's Creek near Lenore, N. Carolina. Since the sock drawer had been straightened out the week before, no one could argue the logic. Julie Bard (K-1) Lisa Langlinais (K-1) and Gene Langlinais(K-1) piled into the car after work and started out for the wilds of No. Carolina. Not seeing the need for a map we relied on Julie's memory and cryptic notes as we headed southwest. Several hours later (1am) we arrived in Mt. Airy, home of Andy Griffith, and our host for the evening, Ricky Blizzard, a friend of Julie's and a local paddler.

Morning broke clear and cold, but not that cold. After introductions and good-byes we decided to have breakfast then head out for Wilson's Creek some four hours away! Arriving at Wilson's was exciting. Here we where at a Class IV-V creek with road access and the weather was changing-now cloudy and windy. Oh joy! We were waiting for another local paddler Luke (C-1), from Sussex County N.J. who just decided he liked it better in N.C. than N.J. Luke had agreed to act as our guide down this, our (Lisa and I) first run of this creek which drops 100 feet per mile over two miles.

At the put-in Wilson's seems like a rock garden jumble with rivlets of water, but shortly thereafter we approached Bigg Drop. This is an almost blind 10 foot slide more than a drop, angling river left. At

high water the hole at the base can be very interesting, but at the level of our run 400cfs presented no problem.. just a punch through. Lisa decided to walk this rapid and for some minutes later felt that the best thing to do would be to walk back to the car and sit it out . All argued that that was the worst, and she agreed to continue. Several more small rapids ensued, all were run without incident or need for scouting until we came to Razorback. Lisa and Julie decided to walk this after a shore scout. Luke and I decided that even at this level it could be run and prepared to do so.

Razorback is pretty much a river wide ledge made up of fairly sharp rocks, hence the name, and contains one of the surer pinning spots in the East on river left. Our

(Continued on page 11)

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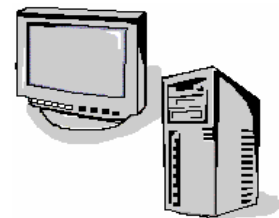
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Trip Report (continued)

route would take us far river right and involved a five foot drop into a boat length pool followed by another five foot drop into a less than boat length pool. The last drop drives you straight into a rock wall, so it's imperative to be back stroken' going into the second pool. This maneuver requires you to make an immediate left turn to follow the flow of the creek. I might mention here that the portage route is quite rugged.

Our next rapid was Ski Jump or Slope, as you wish! This was a river wide ledge with the correct route river left over the drop then an immediate (on the way down) right turn which carries you into a rock or around it dependent on your reflexes, but the ride down the face of the ledge was worth it. Everyone managed the run without incident. Lisa wanted to run it again, but we convinced her that there would be other times. Sure, it's near the end of the run so now she gets courageous! Julie stated that this is where most local paddlers cut their teeth! The canyon or gorge that the creek runs through is quite beautiful, and it's evident that during the warm months the ledges by the big drops are great places from which non-boaters can picnic and watch the carnage on the creek. After changing into warm dry clothing we said good-bye to Luke and headed back to Richmond.

Total road time 18 hours, total river time 3 hours! But , Oh what a wonderful three hours!!! The creek was running at a medium level about +3' on the gauge.

1998 KCCNY Executive Committee Elections

Elections for the KCCNY Executive Committee were held at the KCCNY Annual Dinner on November. The results of those elections are as follows:

Chairperson	Bill Thomas
Vice Chairperson	Jackie Condie
Treasurer	Joan Most
Membership	Pierre deRham
Cruising	Cheryl Shiber
Newsletter	Daniel Lenox
Safety	Ed Hanrahan
	Shawn Coffey
Conservation	Jane Bernstein
Training	Marian Greenfield
	Pierre deRham
Annual Race	Ralph Johns
	Paul Epstein
Competition Liaison	Jim Raleigh
Delegates at Large	Ann Cali
	Helen Chase
	Vance Condie
	Gordon Trinkler
	Brian Meserlian
	Catherine Murray
	Bruce Farenkoph
	Joy Sima
	Nancy Shiber
Pool Sessions	Gordon Trinkler
Annual Dinner	Ann Cali
Web Site	Daniel Lenox

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World Wide Web & Email Addresses

The following are some www site and email addresses that I have come across. Please contact me if you find any others of interest, or the address is incorrect (I am not responsible for the accuracy). Use them wisely!

<http://www.ssix.com/bbs>
<http://www.awa.org>
<http://www.gti.net/amcny>
<http://www.ssix.com/kccny>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~suthers/trpc>
<http://www.orp-wc.usace.army.mil:80/current>
<http://www.kayaker.com/perception>
<http://www.nowr.org>
<http://mohawk.ll.mit.edu>
<gopher://wx.atmos.uiuc.edu:70/11/states>
74744.2350@compuserve.com
NantOutCen@aol.com
hennessey@cceb.med.upenn.edu
Wghy78a@prodigy.com
azagofsky@aol.com
DLenox@ssix.com
PdeRham@highlands.com

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Appalachian Mountain Club, NY-NoJ Chapter
Kayak and Canoe Club of NY home page
Three Rivers Paddling Club home page
US Army Corps of Eng (Pittsburgh PA)
Perception home page
National Organization of WW Rodeos
NE River Forcast Center
River gauges & weather
FutaFund for Futaleufu river
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Philadelphia Canoe Club newsletter editor
Garden State Canoe Club newsletter editor
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club newsletter editor
Kayak and Canoe Club of NY newsletter editor
Kayak and Canoe Club of NY membership

THE DAY WE ALMOST KILLED KEVIN

by Gidon Schwarcz (aka Father River)

Kevin Shrader is really a very nice person. Let me go squarely on record on this point. It was not because of malicious intentions on our part. Stupidity, however, cannot be ruled out.

This happened almost two years ago, in the record floods of January 1996. I suppose the statute of limitations has run out by now, so that we can admit the truth. Since everything was roaring out of its banks, I figured why drive to big water--it's right at our doorsteps. So we rendezvoused at the Moodna. My usual partners in crime, Jon Rafalowski and Tom Bohan, showed up. Much to my surprise, Jon had Kevin Shrader along with him.

Now, I knew Kevin from warm summer days at the Mongaup Wave and didn't visualize him tackling massively flooded rivers in January. However, as we looked at the river, I felt reassured. My famous last words were something like "Can't be too hard, all the rocks are covered". I also figured that since Kevin had just got married, he had a death wish anyway, so he'd have to share partly in any blame if he messed up (note: Beth Shrader is really a very nice person).

Our warm-up on the upper class I-II section didn't prepare us for what happened as we shot the dam at the Route 32 bridge. Thunderous twisting waves and crosscurrents engulfed us. I saw Kevin flip and roll partly back up. He nobly tried a few more roll attempts before giving up and

swimming. I quickly stuck my stern near his hands, but the irregular water kept separating us. I suddenly realized that we had traveled a quarter mile in literally seconds, that the flat pool before the next rapid did not exist, and that we were face-to-face with Pylon Rapid, a vigorous class IV at even normal levels. As Kevin and his boat accelerated into the flush, I realized that I could no longer help him and would only get trashed myself running this flooded hell without scouting. I shot to shore, jumped out of my boat and ran down the bank with my throwbag. Jon and Tom were behind me.

There was no sign of Kevin, or anything else for that matter--just massive waves crashing against the broken bridge pylons and disappearing into a cauldron. Just as I was thinking what I could tell his new bride and what I could tell the KCCNY safety chairman (not to mention Charlie Walbridge), out emerges a tried and very wet form from the opposite bank, a few hundred yards downstream. It took us the next half an hour to consider which would be the most sane way to run the rapid and get to Kevin, who we assumed was lapsing into hypothermia on the riverbank. Definitely not run the keeper hole on the left. Definitely not run the usual pillow against the right pylon, because it fed into another keeper hole at this level.

Feeling guiltier and guiltier about keeping Kevin waiting, our debate about the proper route was interrupted by the appearance behind us of a beaming, dry,

bearded man, bundled up in thick toasty pile and smiling from ear to ear. It was Kevin. How the heck he got to his car, changed his clothes, and got back to us on the other side of the river is still a mystery.

Kevin assured us that he was happy as could be and wanted to watch us run the rapid right-side up. I was the probe. I slipped into a very tight tongue between trashy holes and ran it about 6 feet down into all sorts of unexpected garbage, which nicely back-ended me. As I rolled up, I saw Jon doing the same, with similar results. At this point, Tom opted for a sneak against the extreme right bank, and laughed at us as he smoothly paddled by, not having even gotten his face wet.

The rest of the river was occupied by looking for Kevin's yellow Dancer as we negotiated surprisingly powerful waves. Jon even spent a few hours walking along the riverbank after our run, giving a second look. Kevin didn't seem to mind losing the boat much. In fact, he seemed a bit relieved to have lost the boat and to now have an excuse not to paddle.

All's well that ends well. Kevin is still happily married to his unsuspecting wife. He now paddles a Whip-lash and actually remains friends with Jon and myself, a testimony more to his good nature than to his judgement. And I have resolved never to take paddlers on water over their heads (well, almost never!). But more of those indiscretions in a future story.

Another Darwin Survivor

Source Unknown,, submitted by Daniel Lenox

You all know about the Darwin Awards. It's an annual honor given to the person who did the gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way. Last year's winner was the fellow who was killed by a Coke machine which toppled over on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out of it and the previous years winner strapped an aircraft JATO (solid fuel rocket) to his 67' Impala and became part of the side of a cliff, 125' off of the ground, when he impacted it in excess of 350 mph. And this year's nominee is:

Larry Waters of Los Angeles - One of the few Darwin survivors. Larry always wanted to fly. So one day he went to the local Army-Navy surplus store and purchased 45 weather balloons, measuring 4' across when inflated, and several tank of helium. He securely strapped the balloons to his sturdy lawn chair, took several sandwiches and a 6-pack of Millers Lite, loaded his pellet gun - figuring he could pop a few balloons when it was time to descend - and tied himself into the chair.

He thought he would float 30 or so feet above his yard, however, he shot up to 11,000 feet. At that height, he was afraid to pop the balloons lest he unbalance the load. So he stayed there, drifting and cold for more than 14 hours. When he entered the primary approach corridor of LA Int'l. Airport he was spotted by a United pilot, who radio'd the tower that he'd passed a guy in a lawn chair, with a gun.

LAX is right on the ocean; night was falling and the offshore breeze was blowing. It carried Larry out to sea with an emergency helicopter in pursuit. Several miles out it caught up with Larry. Once the crew determined that he was not dangerous, they tried to close in for a rescue, but the draft from the blades would push Larry away whenever they neared. Finally they were able to lower a rescue line from above and Larry was hauled back to shore.

When they landed, he was immediately arrested and taken away in handcuffs for violating LAX airspace. When he was asked why he had done it, he said "A man can't just sit around".



1997 KCCNY Esopus Slalom tee shirts are still available at only \$12.00 plus shipping.

Contact: Cheryl Shiber at (914-794-49601866)

Cold Brook Canoes

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 land.
- 12) Travel in a vehicle driven by other persons.

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

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

Participant's Printed Name

Date

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KCCNY Membership Renewal

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