

January 1999

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Viking Views

V I K I N G C A N O E C L U B N E W S L E T T E R

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Viking's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16. The location will be the Middletown Women's Club, the same location as last year. The Women's Club is located on Shelbyville Road (US60) across the street from the Middletown Fire Department.

You can count on an evening of fun and fine food as we have enjoyed in past years. The activities begin at 6:15 p.m. with a swap meet. Bring your excess outdoor gear to turn it into cash or trade it for something even more useful to you. We will also be having our raffle/silent auction of goodies from the fine proprietors who proffer us goods throughout the year. And of course the camaraderie of sharing river stories with fellow paddlers, some of whom you might not have seen in a while.

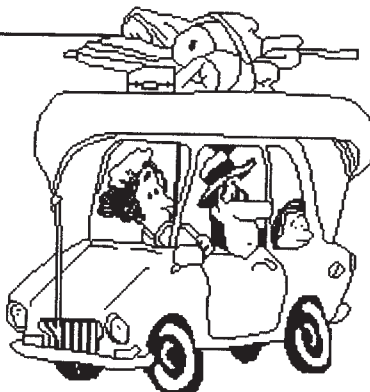
The main event, dinner, will begin at 7:00. As always, voting will be held to determine the most popular entrees -- vegetarian and with meat -- and a dessert. So bring along your favorite dish to share with your fellow paddlers. If you don't bring a dish, bring \$5.00 to contribute to the treasury.

After dinner, we will have the drawing for the raffle prizes and the installation of the new officers. For entertainment, we plan to have slides of past Viking adventures. We'll keep the light on for you.

Help welcome: If you are willing to help set up for the dinner meeting, just show up a bit before 6:00; many hands make easy work. And if you have a contact for a donation to the raffle/silent auction, contact Perry Finley at 459-9858 or David Ackerman at 485-1471.

TRIP COORDINATORS WANTED!

From flatwater to class V, the club is anxious to hear from those willing to lead a paddling trip. Contact the editor at 459-4881 or any of the officers.



VIKING CALENDAR

JANUARY 1 - ANNUAL POLAR BEAR CRUISE. River to be determined. Contact David Ackerman 485-1471.

DATE UNCERTAIN - CUMBERLAND BELOW THE FALLS. The annual draw-down of Lake Cumberland exposes the maximum rapids. Frank Weider and others still hope for enough water and the right temperature to make this Class III run.

DATES TO BE DETERMINED - ROLL SESSIONS. Special edition will be issued.

JANUARY 16 - Annual dinner meeting. See article this page.

JANUARY 23 - Drue and Violet Rice are headed for the Nantahala. Contact them at 812-366-4603 if you're headed that way too.

FEB 27 NATIONAL PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL, Lexington, KY. BWA's annual visual extravaganza. See article inside.

EARLY FEBRUARY - GREEN RIVER EAGLE WATCH. This class I trip has become an annual event with the Millers. Date dependent on decent weather and water flow. Contact Bobbie or Elsie at (502) 465-5324 if you are interested.

FEBRUARY 15 - VIKING MEETING AT TGI FRIDAYS, Linn Station Rd. 6:30 to eat; 7:30 business meeting. Presidents Day.

MARCH - An easy Class I+ outing on Otter Creek in Otter Creek Park. You could bring your mountain bike too. Charlie Buccola 459-4881.

MARCH, date to be determined -- Blue River trip with Drue & Violet Rice

MARCH 15 - Viking meeting at TGI Fridays, Linn Station Rd. 6:30 to eat; 7:30 business meeting.

APRIL -- SPRING CLINIC

MAY -- MEMORIAL DAY TRIP to Nantahala River. David Ackerman.

1999 national paddling film festival

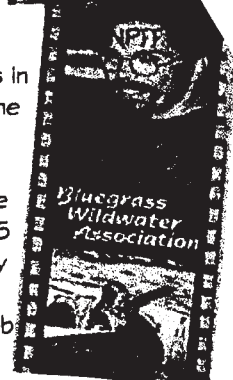
celebrating 16 years of the best in paddlesport image competition

Competition dates:
February 26, 27, 1999
in Lexington, Kentucky

Mark your calendar now for the sixteenth annual National Paddling Film Festival presented by our neighbors, Bluegrass Wildwater Association. Key information about the festival is as follows:

- Lexington Festival date: Feb. 26 and 27, 1999 at the UK Health Science Center (same as in past 14 years) Friday night is the rerun of videos from last year. The prime event is Saturday morning. Note: The films may be starting at 11 am and running to 6 pm this year due to some measly doctors horning in on the room. But please stay tuned to the web pages as Barry is working on trying to have us run at the traditional 10 am - 5 pm time.) New for this year is a separate competition for digital media. There is a \$5 entry fee but you will receive an 8x10 color print of your entry compliments of Lexmark Printers.

- Entry Deadline for videos and motion computer files: 1/29/99.
- Entry for River Safety Posters and Still Images: 2/26/99. The

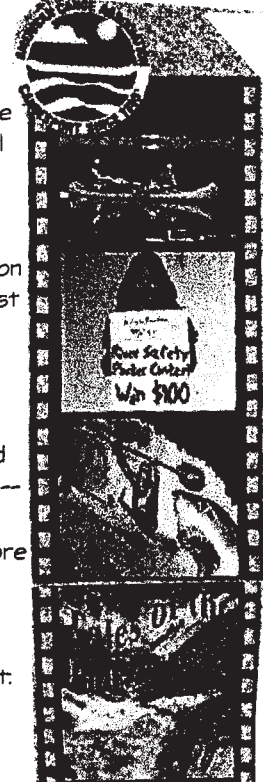


winner of the Best Digital Image entry will win a new Lexmark 5700 printer and each winner from the three age groups for the River Safety Poster Contest will win \$100.

- The NPFF announces a new form of fun and outreach to the paddling public with the introduction of the "NPFF Roadshow". The first NPFF RS is Feb. 17, 1999 in Bozeman, MT hosted by Rapid Discoveries.

Please visit the totally redesigned NPFF web site for more details -- <http://www.surfbwa.org/npff> At the Web site you can find more details and view clips of videos.

If you would like to help, don't be bashful, contact Barry Grimes at: Barry Grimes
1999 NPFF Coordinator
124 Hilltop Dr.
Richmond, Ky 40475
home phone: 606-623-9067
e-mail: bagrim1@pop.uky.edu
NPFF)
<http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>



SAFETY LINES -- Be Prepared

by Robert Meisburg, Safety Chair

Hello Everyone and Happy Holidays! Its time to start the 1999 paddle season. To begin the year, we'll start with the basics. In my opinion safety starts with being prepared mentally and having the knowledge to avoid trouble on the river -- it is a mind set. We could take safety up a step if everyone carried a throw rope, memorized the AWA safety code, stretched before getting in their boat, had a 100 % roll and carried a first-aid kit. Things can not always be perfect on the river because it is not a perfect world.

In the winter paddle season try to remember to do the following: Carry a throw rope and have practice using it. Familiarize yourself with the contents of your first aid kit. Fill your water bottle up and drink plenty of water because it will help you stay warm. Wear a wool or fleece hat under your helmet. Wear your dry suit or wet suit. Put dry bag with a high energy snack and a dry hat and sweater in your boat. Stretch before getting in your boat. In conclusion, remember that the perceptions of the risks that we take on the rivers may change, but the power and indifference of rivers to those who miscalculate do not. Paddling is a great sport with great people, enjoy it with "Safety First"

county road on unmarked property in an established campsite. I guess we were on private property. I had assumed that the land in the gorge was donated by Bridgestone to the state of Tennessee, but apparently we were not within that tract of land. After talking to this ranger, it seems that there is some tension between the landowners and us boaters/hikers, so be careful if you are down there.

The weekend wasn't an entire waste as we had a nice hike into the Virgin Falls Pocket (*continued next page*) Wilderness. The trail follows a tributary to the Caney Fork, with several good overlooks followed by a descent into the gorge. The creek drops off a 40 foot waterfall, reverses direction underneath the falls and enters a huge rockhouse, then disappears out the back of the rockhouse and underground. It takes a subterranean course towards the Caney Fork, and we didn't follow it far enough to see where it emerged from the ground. I highly recommend this hike. Virgin Falls is accessed via Eastland Road from De Rossett, TN.

MULBERRY FORK ACCESS

From: Mike Cowan

In the case of John McCrary v. Birmingham Canoe Club, the BCC won the lawsuit filed by the owner of property adjacent to the club owned take-out at the Mulberry Fork. A defeated McCrary vowed to sell the property, which may end a long-standing dispute between himself and the local paddling community. BCC president Ted Sparks encouraged users of the Mulberry take-out to continue support of the club and its efforts to provide an access point to the river free from harassment.

Mulberry Fork is a favorite early season Class III run and site of annual slalom and downriver races. You can contact Mike at mikejcowan@worldnet.att.net

Classified ads welcome ! If you have an item to sell or seek to buy, place your advertisement here.

ACCESS TO NEW RIVER AT FAYETTE STATION CHANGED

This information is from a couple who live near the New and Gauley Rivers in W Va. Contact them at joekayak@worldnet.att.net

According to local newspaper in September, the new "old" bridge in New River Gorge (Fayette Station, West Virginia) is expected to open on Tuesday. When the bridge is opened for traffic the road will be one-way from Lansing to Fayetteville. So, if you are heading down to the takeout at Fayette Station you will have to go down on the north side of the gorge (by the Visitor's Center) and cross the bridge before you get to the parking and takeout areas. When you are coming out of the gorge you will go past Rivers (the outfitter) and come out to Route 19. This development will increase the shuttle time for a New River Gorge run.

As a side note, the new "old" bridge cost about \$5 million. It is one lane and it features side-walks for hikers and bicyclists.

Dreaming of the Ocoee already?

Just in case you can't wait, the first scheduled release on the Ocoee is Saturday, March 20. It will be an eight hour release (9 to 5) as will be all Saturdays and Sundays through Memorial Day weekend. After Memorial Day weekend, the schedule expands beyond Saturdays and Sundays only. If you go you won't be lonely. In 1998, 286,000 people participated in recreation on the river.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual membership renewals are now due. If you have not already done so, please use the enclosed form to submit your membership renewal. You may mail the form to Emily Boone or bring it to the January dinner meeting.

Viking History

The Viking Canoe Club traces its beginnings to 1969. Over the following several years, the Club evolved to the point of incorporation in 1971 into the organization we know today. In the beginning, the focus was on all sorts of paddling activities but there was much interest in canoe racing. Records are sketchy from the early days. As the Club enters its thirtieth year of existence, we will present stories and news from the early days in this and future issues of Viking Views.

Excerpts from the Club minutes of July 7, 1970. The Viking Canoe Club met the second Monday every third month. Dues were \$5.00 (\$2.50 for the club and \$2.50 for the U.S.C.A.) Joe Medley was the President.

The Club participated in races at the following locations: Little Miami, OH, Driftwood River, IN; USCA National Marathon Championship, OH; Wabash River, IN; Whitewater River Canoe Race, IN; Hoosier Canoe Regatta, IN.

Excerpts from the October 14, 1970 meeting: Family membership was discussed. Previously the dues were for each adult. Family dues were \$6.50. U.S.C.A. bylaws were adopted for the Viking Club. Voting was for members age 14 and up. Adults could join the club without being a USCA member.

On January 11, 1971, the Viking meeting was held in Valley Station. There were nineteen guests present and the treasury was \$12.00 in the red. An early spring run of Otter Creek was proposed. A newsletter editor was appointed. (Sadly, any early issues have not survived in the Club files.) Elections were held for Cruise, Competition and Whitewater Chairpersons.

The Club apparently met again on January 19, 1971 and discussed the following: Bylaws were presented to the Club. The Club discussed incorporation. A racing schedule was discussed.

The next record (the Club continued to meet quarterly) was from July 11, 1971. The meeting was held at McNeely Lake. There were eighteen new

members. Club cruises were listed as the Green River, Cumberland River and an Otter Creek cleanup at Highway 1638.

The final meeting in 1971 was on October 11. At the time there were four new members. A top item of discussion was how to increase the treasury. (Some things never change.) U.S.C.A. membership was still tied to Club membership as the Club was an affiliate. Due, payable on January 1, were raised by \$1 to the following amounts: Junior - \$5, Senior - \$6, Family - \$7.50. The Cruise Chairman stated that the Club would try to cruise at least once a month the year around.

Thanks to Club Secretary Ann Weider for researching and summarizing this information. Perhaps there a few of the "old timers" around who can contribute some good stories from the early days of the Vikings. If so, please pass along any information to the editor at 1814 Rutherford Ave., Louisville, KY 40205 or 459-4881.

NEMO BRIDGE AND CANEY FORK

Here is an interesting report from Jack Ditty (jackditty@medmail.uky.edu) via the BWA Listserve.

I just want to pass on some good or bad news, depending on how you look at it. I happened upon an unpleasant scene this past weekend (November) at the Obed. A new bridge is under construction to replace the familiar and beautiful old Nemo bridge. The construction has ripped the place apart and is very unsightly. I think the new bridge is going to be concrete like the one at Lilly. Anyway, I'm sure it is necessary because Nemo probably didn't have too many years left in it, and as much as I like rivers, I don't want to fall into one in my car. But the mystical quality of Nemo has been destroyed, in my opinion, and I'm kind of sad.

In other news, my girlfriend and I got booted out of the Caney Fork by a guy who claimed to be a "ranger" employed by Bowater timber company. We were camped near a

MINUTES OF MEETING - November 16, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Johnny Sena at 7:35PM with 18 members and 1 guest present. *Treasurer's report:* Violet Rice announced that the Club's coffers have approximately \$1200.00 for a total amount currently. *Secretary's report:* A vote was taken and passed to dispense with thereading of the past minutes.

Old Business:

Pool sessions: Crawford gym at the University of Louisville will probably be our winter site, depending upon whether our application passes the risk management criteria. Dave Ackerman stated that we will be more aggressive this year about obtaining pertinent data on new students, so that we may follow up with them later with on-water instruction.

Business cards: These still need to be ordered.

January dinner/meeting: We will hold our annual event at the Middletown Women's Club, for the third year, on January 16, 1999. Time is to be determined, but probably 6-9PM. This will be the January meeting.

Beginners' clinic: Vice-President Drue Rice has offered to hold three weekend training sessions in 1999, depending on interest, for beginners, starting with quiet water and moving up to moving and fast water.

River rescue clinic: Dave Ackerman gave prices for instruction with NOC and with GAIN in WV and asked for input. After much discussion the motion was made by Mike Roberts and passed by vote to list the options in both Viking Views and the BWA newsletter with Dave as a contact. This will give us a better idea of the number of interested paddlers so that we may plan accordingly, as the prices are based on student to instructor ratios.

Elkhorn Coalition: Mike Roberts reported on the recent meeting, at which basically the members collected lists of interested persons and groups and listened to the newly elected county executive. The nearby cabinet shop is now owned by Canoe Kentucky. Mike gave us information on a recent tour of access areas and their possibilities of acquisition. Knights bridge may be the best take-out.

New Business:

Elections were held for 1999 officers with the following slate accepted by vote: President - David Ackerman. Vice-President - Drue Rice. Secretary - Ann Weider. Treasurer - Emily Boone. The Executive Committee consists of Frank Weider, Johnny Sena, and Richard Millea.

Web page: Alan Baldwin would like any photos, in any format, for the Web page. Send with a SASE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Weider, Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING - December 21, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Johnny Sena at 7:35 PM with 11 members and 1 guest present. *Treasurer's report:* Violet Rice stated that the Club has a little over \$1000 in the account. The deposit has been paid for the January dinner at Middletown Women's Club. *Secretary's report:* The motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Old Business:

Pool sessions: Dave Ackerman reported that the Club has the insurance now from Ed Council of Canoe Kentucky; the correct forms have been turned in to the authorities at the University of Louisville. We are now waiting for final approval from their risk management people. We are set for Saturday night sessions when approval is given.

January dinner/meeting: Our yearly Club potluck event will be held on Saturday, January 16, 1999 at the Middletown Women's Club, on Shelbyville Road, from 6 to 9 PM. As in the past, we will have a silent auction and raffle and swap meet. Prizes will be awarded to best appetizer, entree, and dessert. Gemma Kanzler volunteered to contact Perry Finley regarding donated items from businesses.

Beginner's clinic: Drue Rice again stated his desire to hold three weekend sessions and will need volunteers. The number of participants and interest level will depend on our pool sessions.

River rescue clinic: Dave Ackerman had available for perusal the proposals from two organizations - GAIN and NOC. Nothing definite has been decided yet.

Elkhorn Coalition: Mike Roberts reported there will probably be a January meeting. At this time, Knights Bridge seems to be the best take-out.

New Business:

Club insurance: Both Dave Ackerman and Drue Rice proposed the idea that Viking consider purchasing its own insurance for ease in obtaining future pool session commitments. A ballpark figure would be \$500 to \$600. Various fund-raising ideas were discussed.

Upcoming trips: Polar Bear cruise, January 1, 1999. No definite location yet. Contact Drue Rice. Club paddle/picnic, January 23, 1999. Possibly on the Nantahala. Contact Drue Rice.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Weider, Secretary

Have you renewed your membership?

P.O. Box 32263
Louisville, KY 402



ROLL SESSIONS 1999

The final details for the roll sessions are still being worked out. A special mailing will be made to announce the time and place. Watch the web site if you have access.

New Officers

The following officers will be installed at the dinner meeting in January:

President:	David Ackerman	502- 485-1471 267-0369
Vice President:	Drue Rice	812-366-4603
Secretary:	Ann Weider	502-244-5475
Treasurer:	Emily Boone	502-585-3430

Executive Board: Johnny Sena, Frank Weider, Richard Millea.

Visit our Web Site:
www.vikingcanoecub.org



**RESPECT
THE EARTH
...RECYCLE!**