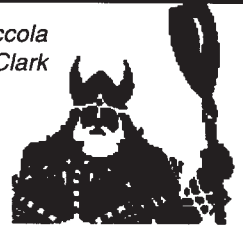


April 1999

Newsletter Editor: Charlie Buccola
Newsletter Design: Penny Kephart-Clark



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

VIKING SPRING CLINIC

Be prepared to paddle safely and skillfully. Whether you are new to the sport or want to improve your technique, the Club's annual paddling instruction is a lot of fun. And the experienced members of the Club have the opportunity to participate by passing along the skills that they have acquired.

A different format will be used for the paddling clinic this year. Rather than leave town for the weekend, instruction will be held on three successive Saturdays in April in the local area. On April 10, the introductory session will be held on Deam Lake to teach the basics of paddling. The instruction moves to Blue River on April 17 to offer paddling on easy moving water. The "final exam" will be on Elkhorn Creek on the 24th. A pot luck dinner after the third session is in the planning stages.

The clinic is free to members of the Club. Space is limited, so first come, first served. Instruction will be offered to paddlers of kayaks and canoes. Participants are responsible for providing their own gear (boat, PFD, clothing, etc.) Some equipment can be arranged for, but early notification by participants will be required to determine availability.

Contact Drue Rice (812-366-4603) for additional information. Experienced members of the club will be needed to assist with the instruction; call Drue or drop a note to the Club PO Box.

As always, the objective of the clinic is to equip persons with the skills to safely paddle moving water and to enjoy all water resources. We hope that the current and former students will join club members on the trips shown in the Club Calendar in this and future issues of Viking Views.

VISIT THE VIKING WEBSITE

If you have access to the Internet, be sure to stop by the Viking website whenever you have a chance. Members are encouraged to post brief trip reports, trip plans and other news on "Viking Forum." The site provides information regarding the club and activities and has links to other sites. The web address is: <http://www.vikingcanoeclub.org>

WEB SITE FOR RIVER GAUGES

Another site to check on river gauges: <http://www.riverport.com>

A BIG "THANK YOU" FROM THE CLUB to those businesses that supported the Club at the annual dinner meeting by donating prizes for the door prize raffle and silent auction and for supporting us throughout the year. Thanks to Quest for the Outdoors, Menesha Ridge Press, Canoe Kentucky, NOC and anonymous donors. Please support those who support us. Remember that Canoe Kentucky and Quest offer discounts to club members for boating gear.

ELKHORN NEWS - Soufleys have had it with illegible parking; inappropriate behavior. Best takeout - Knights Bridge. Put on - Don't take up parking

BWA CLINIC

The schedule of the Viking clinic doesn't work for you or you are seeking intermediate level instruction? Consider our neighbors in the Bluegrass Wildwater Association who will hold their on the Emory-Obed river system over the weekend of April 24 - 25. If you need information, contact them at Bluegrass Wildwater Association, PO Box 4231, Lexington, KY 40544

ROLL SESSIONS CONTINUE

Roll sessions continue until March 27. If you have not yet worked on your roll, don't miss the chance to do so in the calm, warm water of the pool before you head for the river this spring. The sessions are being held at the Crawford Gymnasium pool on the University of Louisville campus each Saturday from 6 till 8 p.m. The gym is located at the corner of Warnock and Brook Streets. Need more information? Call David Ackerman at 267-0369.

MINUTES OF MEETING February 15, 1999

Prior to the meeting, Viking members were treated to an enthusiastic presentation by Bill Hester of the Adventure Travel Dept. at Nantahala Outdoor Center. He showed a video of NOC trips to Chile and Nepal and spoke of those country's paddling merits.

The meeting was called to order by President David Ackerman at 7:40PM at TGI Fridays.

Secretary's report: The motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Ann Weider encouraged members to renew quickly and avoid missing an issue of the Viking Views.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of Emily Boone, Dave Ackerman reported that the Club's balance is \$2188.46, with \$500 for pool rental still to be paid.

Old Business:

Pool sessions: Richard Millea suggested that on sign-up sheets we ask participants how they learned of the lessons, so that we can target the sources. He volunteered to print a list of students and regulars need only check off their names, thereby avoiding congestion. Dave thanked all the volunteers and asked for continued support. The last session is March 27.

Beginner clinics: Drue Rice listed his choice of dates as April 10, 17, 24. The three classes will follow a progression: Deam Lake, quietwater, Blue River, moving water, Elkhorn Creek, mild whitewater. Drue asked for donations of boats for the classes and lots of Club volunteers, as the last date coincides with the BWA clinic. A motion to change dates failed. Drue would also like to videotape some lessons. The motion was made to rent a video camera if the need arises.

Elkhorn Coalition: Mike Roberts and Don Coaplen discussed the takeout options available and implored boaters to be respectful to homeowners. There is extremely limited legal parking near the fence at Saufley's. However violators will not be tolerated. All boaters should be encouraged to use Knightsbridge.

Club insurance: The motion was made by Richard Millea that the Club purchase insurance for roll sessions at approximately \$500/year. The motion passed. Frank Weider stated that such insurance would not be available from the American Canoe Association unless we had certified instructors in the proper ratios for the classes.

New Business:

Events list: Dave Ackerman distributed copies of a tentative 1999 trip schedule, through October.

Boat purchase: No motion was made after discussion of an idea to purchase boats for beginners.

Club picnic: The dates chosen for the 1999 Viking picnic are July 24 and 25. Site in Ocoee area.

Boy Scouts: Richard Millea and Drue Rice mentioned holding merit badge paddling classes for Boy Scout troops. They will pursue this activity.

Film Festival: Dave reminded everyone of the 1999 Paddling Film Festival on Feb. 27.

Trip report: Frank Weider told of his adventure on the Elkhorn Creek 2/14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Weider, Secretary

FOR POLAR BEARS ONLY

White water. Snow that is. An environment that polar bears love. Kenny Slaughter and Perry Finley had to chip themselves out of their kayaks at the takeout. But the Viking record was kept intact for holding the annual Polar Bear cruise on New Years Day. Drue Rice, Charlie Buccola, Frank and Ann Weider piloted their canoes along with Kenny and Perry down the Blue River from Blue River Chapel to the Ohio River boat ramp.

Serene -- you could hear the quiet in the woods. The subtle crunch of thin ice breaking loose in the eddies as our boat passed. Later, the solid thunk on the hull of breaking through the ice flows near the takeout. Enjoying the birds -- blue herons, kingfishers, wild turkeys, ducks, various woodpeckers, bluebirds and other songbirds. What better way to start the new year? And if the trip into the big wind last new years day foretold a year of bizarre experiences for the Vikings, this year looks good.

For Sale: Mike Roberts has a kayak for sale. He has taught it all the tricks and its ready to play. 458-1141

Safety lines - A Cloudy Issue

From Mark Istvanko, published in *Currents*

So you've driven for hours and you're finally at the put in. Boats have been unloaded, you have on all your gear and the shuttle has been run. There is a big dark line of clouds moving in. It begins to rain and thunder, and, worst of all, lightning can be seen in the distance. You want to paddle, but should you?

I don't know. There is much information out there, but very little of it relates to canoeists and kayakers specifically. I talked to the Coast Guard, the Red Cross, Professional Paddlesports Association, the ACA and The AWA. What did I learn from these folks? Zippo. They wanted to be helpful but did not have definite answers. So I researched lightning and here is what I found.

- Lightning can carry a current of up to fifty million volts.
- Lightning is attracted to water and to the highest object on the water.
- Water conducts electrical charges.
- If you notice your hair standing on end due to static electricity, get off the water fast! This phenomenon, though not always present, indicates the mounting difference in energy between ground and sky.
- Once off the water, seek shelter that has minimum chance of attracting lightning.
- The best shelter is a clump of trees that are shorter than the surrounding trees.
- Tall trees act as lightning rods and, when struck, electricity runs down their trunk and out their roots.
- You can insulate yourself from possible ground currents by sitting on your PFD.
- Groups should spread out to avoid multiple victims.
- If you are in an open field, lie down to avoid becoming a lightning rod.

Getting off the water when lightning gets close seems to be the best advice. How close is the lightning? Count the number of seconds between the flash and the clap of thunder. When you see the flash, start counting one on thousand, two one thousand, three one thousand, etc. until you hear the thunder. Divide the number of seconds by five. If the lightning flash and thunder are five seconds apart, the storm source is one mile away.

Newsletter Help Wanted

Penny Kephart is no longer able to do the layout for Viking Views. So we're looking for a volunteer who has the computer access and software knowledge to do the setup. If any member would like to try their hand at editing the newsletter, the mantle could be passed on that opportunity as well.

Renew Now

WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU FROM THE VIKING FAMILY, BUT THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. ALL DUES SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAID IN JANUARY, UNLESS YOU PAID OCTOBER 1, 1998 OR AFTER. DON'T MISS OUT; SEND YOUR \$15.00 AND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO OUR TREASURER, EMILY BOONE, 1027 Franklin St., Louisville, KY 40206-1811. An updated Club roster will be printed in May, so be sure we have all your particulars correct.

Other events of interest

Apr 2 - 4 Ocoee Double Header Races, Copper Hill, TN (705-546-1968)

Apr 17 - 18 Southeastern US Slalom & Wild Water Championships, Nantahaa River, NC (404-252-2321)

Apr 24 - 25 Kayak Poto National Championship, Oak Ridge, TN (423-220-8753)

April 30 - May 2 Cheat River Festival, Atbright, WV (304-379-3141)

QUEST FOR THE OUTDOORS

Viking Canoe Club Members Now Receive
15% Off

Any Purchase of Paddling Accessories.

At Quest we are proud to carry paddling gear and clothing from: Patagonia, Stohlquist, Lotus Designs, Werner Paddles, Extrasport, Mad River, Wenonah, Perception, Dagger, Current Designs, Old Town, Merrimack and Snap Dragon.



Outdoor Adventures Begin Here

128 Breckinridge Lane • Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 893-5746 • questout@iglou.com

Monday-Friday 10-8 • Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 12-5

From the Archives

A look back at the early activities of the Club - Compiled by Ann Wieder

Jan 10, 1972 -- Joe Medley was President. The Treasury balance was \$1302 with 110 family memberships. A January cruise was cancelled until a liability question was settled. A motion was made and passed that the Viking hold a film festival before the April meeting. The Competition chairman read the racing schedule. An Amendment to Section III of the bylaws, paragraph A, line 5 passed. "Nomination of Officers will be made by membership at the October meeting." (Line 6) "Ballots will be included in the January Viking Views for those wanting to vote by mail. All ballots mailed in must be signed and returned to the Secretary before the January meeting." A Kentucky book of county maps was purchased for \$5.50. A motion was made and passed to proceed with Club incorporation.

April 10, 1972 -- 118 family memberships. Racing report was given. A cleanup of the Salt River was scheduled for May 20 in Mt. Washington. A cruising report was given. A discussion of Club patches was held.

Jan 9, 1973 -- Election of officers was held with Joe Venhoff as President, Joe Medley as Vice Pres., Warren Winchester as Secretary and Ken Wentworth as Treasurer. A report was given on a proposal to build a slalom course on the Ohio. A New River raft trip was discussed.

Jan 31, 1973 -- A large turnout was present to discuss and vote on changes to the constitution and bylaws. The change proposals would be published in the next Viking Views for member to read and consider before voting. The membership voted to become an affiliate of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen. The Salt River race was discussed.

April 9, 1973 -- A lengthy Treasurer's report was given with assets being \$193.94. Membership: 128. Viking Club sponsored a national cruise on the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Whitewater training would be held. A motion was made and defeated that the newsletter editor be an elected official. Constitution and by-law changes were accepted and the club had a constitution. Viking had been incorporated as a non-profit organization in Feb 1972. Charter date: June 1969.

July 8, 1973 -- The meeting was held at McNeely Lake. The treasurer's report showed \$644.32. The cruising chairman would like to see 12 planned trips per year as well as keeping the phone committee for spontaneous trips. A motion was made and passed to host the USCA National Convention in 1974. A motion was made and passed to prohibit alcoholic beverages while on the water.

July 1973 -- Meeting was held to elect chairman for the USCA National Convention in Louisville hosted by the Vikings. Joe Venhoff was elected. Discussion followed on the necessary committees to be formed.

Oct 8, 1973 -- Treasury balance was \$332.51. Motion was made and passed to have January election that were secret ballots rather than show of hands. Discussion followed on the deterioration of the "USCA News" magazine and a motion was passed to support the USCA for one more year as the membership favored that organization rather than the AWA or ACA.

The Salt River race was scheduled for June 23 and 24, 1974. Several officers expressed their desire not to run it again.

FREE/STYLE VIDEO

A videotape of the 1998 Interpretive Freestyle Canoe Exhibition held at the '98 Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous in Houston is available. The video also includes a demonstration of Greenland kayaking skills. If interested, send a note and a check for \$20 to Marge Kline, 1343 North Portage, Palatine, IL 60067.

KENTUCKY OUTDOOR CENTER



KENTUCKY'S PADDLESPORT/ADVENTURE SHOP

- largest paddlesports showroom in the state
- superior service including "try before you buy"
- trade-ins and free shuttles for new purchase
- biggest selection of canoes/kayaks/rafts
- most rental units of any Kentucky livery
- serving more streams than all other liveries
- offering outdoor packages
 - camping
 - fishing
 - hiking
 - caving
 - horseback riding
 - bicycling

located on Elkhorn Creek
7323 Peaks Mill Rd. • Frankfort, KY
CALL (800)K-CANOE-1 TO BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE

P.O. Box 32263
Louisville, KY 40232



© Viking Canoe Club

VIKING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH 15 VIKING CLUB MEETING TGI Fridays, Linn Station Road.

MARCH 27 SPRING FLING NOC, Nantahala River, NC, Novice-Intermediate Paddlers. Call David Ackerman 502-267-0369

APRIL 10 VIKING CLINIC-1, Deam Lake, Beginner Paddlers. Call Drue Rice 812-366-4603

APRIL 17 VIKING CLINIC-2, Blue River, Beginner Paddlers. Call Drue Rice 812-366-4603

APRIL 24 VIKING CLINIC-3, Elkhorn Creek. Beginner Paddlers. Call Drue Rice 812-366-4603

APRIL 19 VIKING CLUB MEETING TGI Fridays, Linn Station Road

MAY 2 HIWASEE RIVER Benton, TN, Beginner-Novice Paddlers. Drue Rice 812-366-4603

MAY ? SAFETY CLINIC, All levels

MAY 21-23 OCOEE RODEO, Spectator event

MAY 28 - 31 NANTAHALA RIVER Novice-Intermediate Paddlers. Call David Ackerman 267-0369

JUNE UPPER NEW RIVER Novice-Intermediate Paddlers. Call Johnny Sena 367-1318 or Mike Roberts 458-1141

JUNE 20 SUMMER SOLSTICE CRUISE. All Paddlers. Emily Boone 585-3430. Ohio River; Falls to Salt River

JULY 4 NEW RIVER GORGE Intermediate + Paddlers. David Ackerman 267-0369

JULY UPPER NEW RIVER Novice-Intermediate Paddlers. Richard Millea 812-284-0042

JULY 24-25 VIKING PICNIC TN-NC Vicinity of Hiwasse, Nantahala, Ocoee

AUGUST 14-15 LOWER YOUGHIOGHENY Novice-Intermediate Paddlers. Frank Weider 502-244-5475 (Reserve by August 1)

SEPT 3 - 5 NEW RIVER GORGE Intermediate + Paddlers. Robert Mesiburg 361-5984

SEPT 25 GAULEY FESTIVAL Event; great paddling nearby

OCT 1 - 3 RUSSELL FORK RENDEZVOUS Event; Breaks Interstate Park Great paddling nearby. Intermediate Paddlers Call Richard Millea 284-0042

OCT 30 GUEST APPRECIATION FESTIVAL/ EVENT NOC, Nantahala River, NC

Other weekends - Area rivers and creeks, waterflow permitting. Keep in touch!