

Vikings CPR Class of '04

Nine Vikings attended a certified CPR class on Saturday, January 31st at the Camp Taylor Fire Department. Attendance was boosted by an email from Jim Gunn on the list-serve which said "If I ever drown and your not able to bring me back because you don't know CPR I won't be very happy."



CPR Certified: John Pillitteri, Jared Elbelhar, Kevin Jones, Penny Kephart, Marnie Grose, Brian McAllister, new honorary Viking member Fred, Patrick Collins, Jim Gunn and Scott Howes.



John Pillitteri was first to "perform" CPR on Fred the limbless doll!

Viking Canoe Club

Spring 2004

Louisville, KY Area Paddling Club



Chowing Down in Middletown!

January 17 was the big evening of the Annual Viking Dinner Meeting. This year it was held at the Middletown Women's Club (in Middletown no less). While it was a miserable, rainy evening a record crowd was on hand for the good food and festivities. There were approximately 100+ Vikings and their guests. Allison and Nathan drove over from KOC for the event.

Gary Reiss was the master raffler.



It seemed like it took forever to raffle off all the wonderful donated items from sponsors. Gary spend the evening dancing back and forth from his table to the silent auction table trying to get in the winning bid on an item. The Viking tradition of a

cooking contest was continued at the dinner. There was a plethora of outstanding food available. It was a very difficult task to decide who provided the best food as it was all incredibly good. However, the results of the cooking contest are as follows: Appetizer - Jim Gunn; Meat Entree - Charlie Sloan; Vegetarian Entree - James Gunnoe; Side Dish - Mark Atkinson; Dessert - Jerry Greenlee. Thanks to these wonderful cooks who each won a \$15 gift certificate to the Kentucky Outdoor Center.

Financially, it was reported by Kipp Downing, Treasurer, that the club had roughly a \$3,000 balance. That was before the tally of the money realized from the raffle and silent auction. The raffle total was \$240 and the silent auction brought in \$170. Combined with T-shirt sales and a donation, the club took in \$495 for the evening.

We graciously thank the following sponsors of the dinner:

Kentucky Outdoor Center/Canoe Ky- www.kyoutdoorcenter.com

ACE Adventure Center - www.aceraft.com

Beauty Mountain Sports - www.beautymountainsports.com

Natahala Outdoor Center- www.noc.com

Quest Outdoors- Louisville, Ky

Sheltowee Trace Outfitters- www.ky-rafting.com

Shred Ready- www.shredready.com

Lunch Video Magazine (LVM) - www.lunchmag.tv

Lotus Designs- www.lotusdesigns.com

Werner Paddles - www.wernerpaddles.com

Endless Rivers Adventures- www.endlessriveradventures.com

Viking Canoe Club
P.O. Box 32263
Louisville, KY 40232



People in Boats - Jim Gunn

It was in early spring last year that I had occasion to paddle with two young men on the Elkhorn. As the rest of us made our way down the Elkhorn the two young men hung back playing together in the rapids. I thought they were brothers. Little did I realize later down the creek that they were father and son: Jim and Erin Gunn. I was astonished as they didn't look like there was that big an age difference between them.

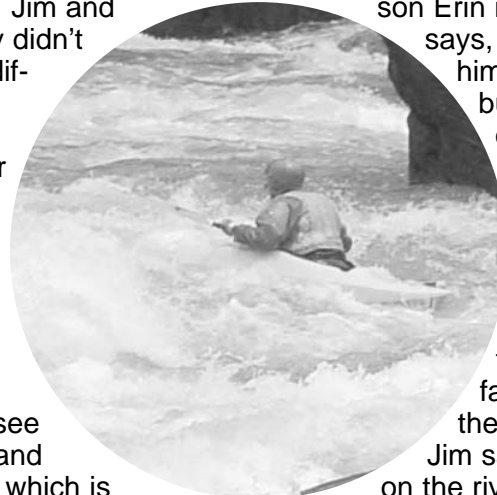
I have paddled on many occasions since with Jim. He is a great paddler and always has a smile on his face. He has been paddling since 1993. His first whitewater boat was a Perception Dancer which he used through 1999. Jim left off paddling from 2000 through 2002. When he resumed paddling in 2003 Jim says "When I got back I was shocked to see how boats had shrunk." He ran out and bought a shorter boat, a Riot Disco which is 4 ft. shorter than the Dancer. Jim can be seen playing in the surf in that boat today. Jim says "River running is much easier in bigger longer boats so I would not attempt today in my Disco the rivers I have done in the Dancer."

After resuming his paddling last year, Jim jumped back in with incredible enthusiasm. He paddled about 20-25 days in 2003. Starting with "A week of Rivers" in March with Perry and Mark. They ran the Ocoee twice, Chattooga Sections III and IV, and the Nolichucky. Other rivers he Disco'd down in 2003 include the Pigeon, Big South Fork Canyon, Cumberland Below the Falls, Lower Gauley, Cherry River, Ohio Falls, and Elkhorn.

His favorite paddling spot is by far the Ocoee. Jim comments, "I like to play and this river has no shortage of play spots. The bad thing about the Ocoee is it gets crowded. However at the beginning and end of the season and on holidays I have at times felt like I was the only one on the river." One of his most enjoyable trips last year was in the fall when he was delivering a canoe he sold to a guy who was meeting him at the Ocoee. Sunday morning Jim got up and went to Hell Hole before the water release had arrived. After watching the hole develop as the water rose Jim got on the river and had about 2 hours of continuous play time before the crowds showed up. Jim had paddled the Cumberland Below the Falls the day before with the club and then headed south to North Carolina with the banged up canoe on top.

What Jim loves the most about paddling is "The challenge and adrenaline rush . . ."

Jim says "I enjoy many levels of paddling and I enjoy the camaraderie among paddlers but what I like most is scouting a difficult rapid and my heart feels like its going to pound right out of my chest. Then running the rapid and feeling the satisfaction of a successful run."



Does Jim get the butterflies like the rest of us? "I definitely get butterflies on certain rivers and the older I get the more butterflies I get (they must be breeding in my stomach)."

The greatest fear Jim has while paddling is when his son Erin is with him. In talking of the fear he says, "God forbid anything should happen to him. I don't worry too much about myself but I would hate to see my son, or anyone else for that matter, get seriously hurt."

The funniest thing that has happened to Jim while paddling is watching the rafters on the Ocoee: "Sometimes I laugh uncontrollably when I'm on the Ocoee watching a raft full of first-timers surf a hole. The looks on their faces and the screams, especially from the women, are priceless."

Jim says that he has had his scary moments on the river: "The first was my first year boating and before I knew that a smooth horizon line could mean a lethal hydraulic lurked just beyond. I got recirculated multiple times and spit out like a rag doll. The second was when my brother-in-law broached against a rock in the middle of Pinball during a low level run on the Cumberland. He was pinned under water with only one arm waving above. I threw him a rope, he felt it, grabbed it and I was able to pull him out."

Jim has never taken any "formal" kayaking lessons. He says, "I'm totally self taught. My brother-in-law and I took our boats out to the lake with McNealy's "Kayak" book and taught ourselves to roll. The rest was on-the-river experience."

It would great behoove all of us male members of the club to join Jim when he takes his dream paddling trip. What will the trip look like? "On my dream paddling trip its a hot sunny summer day. I turn the corner on a bend in the river to find a dozen models posing for the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. They wave me over to help with sun tan oil." Let us know when you are leaving Jim!

The next time we head out on a club overnite trip be sure and throw in a carton of Tropicana orange juice for Jim to drink around the campfire as that is his favorite party beverage. How would the SI ladies like that?

When not on the river Jim likes to go hiking and geocaching. His future plans include getting a motorcycle and maybe rock climbing. I bet the insurance company loves this guy.

Jim's advice for new paddlers? "Watch-out for flat horizon lines!" This man speaks from experience. Sadly, Jim is moving to Tucson, Arizona later this year. His smiling face and positive outlook will be sorely missed on the water and club events. Jim we all wish you all the best of luck in the Arizona desert.

Official Viking Canoe Club '04 Trip & Event Schedule

April 24th - Earth Day booth at the Falls of the Ohio
May 8th-9th - Beginners Clinic (LTBA)
May 15th - 16th - Swiftwater Rescue Class (LTBA)
May 22nd - Blue River (Class I/II)
May 30th - Cumberland Below the Falls (Class II/III)
June 12th -13th - Nanathala (Class II(III))
June 19th - Green River though MCNP - Flat Water
June 26th -27th - West Virginia (LTBA)
July 10th -11th - Ocoee (Class III+) & Hiwasee (I/II)
July 17th - Flat Water (LTBA)
July 24th -25th - Viking Picnic, Hot Springs, NC
Pigeon River (Class II/III) & French Broad (I/II/III)
August 7th -Youghiogheny (Class II/III)
August 14th - East Race Waterway - South Bend, IN
Sep 5th - Cumberland Below the Falls (Class II/III)
Sep 25th -26th - Last Tow/Shuttle on the Cumberland
October 16th - Russell Fork (Class II/III)

Club Raft & Ducky

If you would like to use the raft or the club ducky, contact the raft-meister, Mark Atkinson at 812-923-3371. The charge for use is \$10 per person per day. The raft guide rides for free. To ride in the raft or guide it, you must be a Viking Canoe Club member.

Viking Canoe Club Officers

President: Kevin Jones 502-426-6155
VP, John Pillitteri - no known number
Secretary, Gary Ress 502-243-8498
Treasurer, Kipp Downing 502-447-8130
Executive Board: Marnie Gross,
Donna Sloan, Greg Shade

Newsletter:

Jerry Greenlee, Editor 502-456-9332
Penny Kephart, Design 502-899-9493
Submissions: vikingviews@bellsouth.net

Swiftwater Rescue Class

Viking Canoe Club is offering an ACA Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Clinic to it's members on the week-end of May 14-16. The course will be taught using a combination of land- and water-based instruction. Learned skills will be reinforced through participation in staged rescue scenarios. For further info and registration see the enclosed flyer.

Canoe Outings Cumberland Sierra Club

April 24 Floyds Fork, Jefferson County - Leader: Martha Berner 502-493-8599
May 29 Split Rock Par, Petersburg, Ky- -Leader: Jerry Messer 859-525-8719; Asst Ldr: Paul Buelterman 859-371-0028
June 26-27 Gourmet Canoe Trip, Licking River, Butler, Ky - Leaders Mary Carol Cooper 859-277-0656 & Herb Pettijean 859-236-5573
August 21 Big Bone Creek, Boone County - Leader: Jerry Messer 859-525-8719; Asst Ldr: Paul Buelterman 859-371-0028

OHIO RIVER WAY PADDLEFEST 2004

Friday July 9 - Paddler's Party and Expo
Four Season's Marina— 4609 Kellogg Avenue
Gear Swap— Yard Sale— Boat Demos— Silent Auction
American Canoe Association Paddling Clinic,
Refreshments, Music, and Over Night Camping
Saturday, July 10 - Six Mile Float Trip, Amateur and Pro Races, Festival at Serpentine Wall: Live Music, ACA Safety and Skills Clinic, Refreshments, Exhibits, War Canoe and Sprint Races
Additional information and secure on-line registration available on March 1 at <http://www.ohioriverway.org>

Kentucky Outdoor Center Demo Day

April 10, 2004 - 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Test out the new boats. Rep's will be on hand from Wavesport, LiquidLogic, Dagger, and Pyranaha. Eric Jackson will be on hand with his new line of Jackson boats. A pro kayaker will be on hand from Wavesport and from Pyranaha.
Big sale of gear and other kayaking and canoeing stuff. Join the fun and party on the Elkhorn.

In the Eddy...

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Charlie Buccola and his family in the loss of his father Domenick R. "Mike" Buccola. Mike passed away on March 2nd. He was 84 as the time of his death.

Our thoughts are also with Anne Marie Webb and Paul in the death of her mother, Anna a. "Rene" Rodman on March 3rd. Mrs Rodman was 66.

Ft. Knox Otter Creek Off Limits

by Dan Molnar

In January 2004, I contacted the commanding officer at Fort Knox to request permission to canoe and kayak the portion of Otter Creek that runs through the military reservation in Meade County. I kayaked that section of Otter Creek several years ago and knew that after a heavy rain, it was a great class II/III+ stream. However, in light of the post-9/11 security changes at Fort Knox, I thought it prudent to obtain permission before venturing uninvited onto Otter Creek. I recently received a letter, February 26th, advising me that my request was denied. According to the Acting Garrison Commander, Colonel Joseph V. Muscarella, "I cannot approve your request because of operational commitments and the potential risk of injury." The concern about operational commitments was based on the fact that military training is routinely conducted on land adjacent to Otter Creek. Colonel Muscarella felt that training might have to be delayed or altered to accommodate kayakers, something that he refuses to do. In justifying his concern, he mentioned incidents in 1985 and 1986 when training had to be shut down to search for missing boaters.

Regarding safety issues, he cited the potential presence of military pyrotechnics such as smoke grenades, explosive devices, and CS gas canisters. He also cited the presence of three low water crossings and two dams as potential hazards.

At the present time, I do not recommend that anyone canoe or kayak on Fort Knox. In light of the high level of concern about security and military preparedness on the reservation, I believe it likely that the Army will prosecute anyone who ignores this guidance.

TN Whitewater Access Issues

By Charlie Buccola

Ah! the coming of spring, which means free flowing water. For those wanting to run the Little Three on the Big South Fork, the closure of Burnt Mill Bridge to the parking area over a year ago has complicated the logistics. The Park Service has recommended the following: From US 27, take TN 52 west through Rugby across the BSF at Brewster Bridge to Mt. Helen Road. Follow the signs for Burnt Mill Bridge from there.

This makes for a horrendously long shuttle. This approach might be better used for those interested in the class II+ paddles from White Oak Creek near Rugby down to Burnt Mill or Brewster Bridge on the BSF down to Brunt Mill. Or for those wanting to go on the other Honey Creek trailhead to hike to the overlook the Gorge section of the BSF. The alternative at Burnt Mill would be to drive in on the old road and drop boats on the east side of the river. A minimum of vehicles could be left along the road well up from the river. Any vehicle to be left would need to be high clearance since it would be parked off the gravel road and would have to turn around in the width of the road.

While on the subject of Tennessee whitewater, keep in mind the Emory-Obed system. The campground at Frozen head State Park remains closed but there is primitive camping at Rock Creek Campground. The visitor center at Wartburg is open 8:00 to 4:30 seven days a week.

River levels are available from the TVA line 1-800-238-2264 or at <http://www.dtnnsh.er.usgs.gov>.

Death on the Russell Fork Gorge

We are all shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Kentucky paddler Jon Lord on Saturday, January 25, 2004. Jon was running the Russell Fork with two paddling buddies, Matt Walker and Jay Ditty. Viking member Richard Millea had planned on joining them but had to cancel out. Jon was in his Wave Sport Big EZ. A long time paddler on the Russell Fork, Jon had run Towers Rapid many times and was familiar with the lines through the rapid.

Matt and Jay had run the rapid and were waiting at the bottom for Jon. He was last seen going over the boof line in the center of the rapid. When he failed to appear at the bottom of the rapid, Matt and Jay saw his paddle float by.

Knowing something was wrong they went looking for him. He was found in a vertical pin at the base of the drop.

Matt and Jay tried desperately to rescue Jon from the pin with throw ropes but were unsuccessful. The force of the water coming down on top of Jon in his cockpit overwhelmed him. His life jacket was stripped off of him after about twenty minutes. It was found on the next day some 200 yards downstream under a rock.

Matt and Jay made the hard decision to go for help. Local search and rescue, swiftwater, and dive rescue teams

arrived in the afternoon but were unsuccessful in getting to Jon and his boat. Search teams arrived to the scene on Sunday morning to find Jon and his boat missing at Towers Rapid. Matt found Jon's boat about a quarter mile downstream under the large boulder at the bottom right side of Triple Drop.

People streamed into the Russell Fork area from Kentucky and neighboring states in an attempt to retrieve Jon's body. The formal search for Jon's body was ended with no success. On February 20, 2004 his drytop was found just below Grassy Creek. A search was initiated the next day and his body was found in an eddy between "Walk the Plank" and "Ski Jump". This brought closure to the tragic event for Jon's family and friends.

A Memorial Service was held for Jon on February 7th at First Baptist Church, Pikeville, Kentucky.

A Close Call at the Falls!

Richard Millea should exercise extreme caution for a while. After canceling out on a Russell Fork trip in January in which Jon Lord lost his life, Richard had a very close encounter with the specter in the black boat last month. On February 12th, Richard made the decision to play around at the Falls of the Ohio with the river running wild. The Louisville gage read around 53 feet (the normal reading is about 18 feet). Richard decided that conditions were after watching for the past 9 years: "... 'right', right flow, the river was dropping so driftwood was not an issue, and the lower pool was just right so there was a 30 ft foam pile with good entry out of the eddy that extended all the way to the Indiana bank." He explained later: "The river was dropping 3 ft/hr so it was either then or wait till the planets all aligned themselves again, perhaps another 9 years."

There was a driftwood raft lodged on the upstream side of the dam that created a large swirly eddy below. The wave was prime and the eddy looked very manageable, and after all it was only about 40 ft from shore. The eddy was extremely agitated and in confused. Richard managed to surf the wave for a brief period and finally flushed quite a way downstream and caught the eddy back about 50 yards from the dam. The whirlpool like vortex grabbed the stern and flipped his boat. After several unsuccessful attempts at rolling, Richard decided to swim. He was then recycled in the vortex for about 20 minutes. While in the eddy vortex he managed to get the attention of a fisherman on shore who alerted rescue personnel. A crowd soon gathered on shore consisting of news crews, civilians, and rescue personnel. Richard managed to finally swim out of the left side of eddy, away from the shore. He swam deep towards toward the bottom which allowed him to catch a current out of the eddy. Once out of the eddy he flushed downstream and commenced swimming towards shore. He then faced another danger in the form of trees along the shoreline and debris hung up in the trees. He finally managed to swim to shore after spending an hour in the frigid water.

Once on shore he was attended to by my rescue personnel spending 20 minutes warming up in an ambulance and taking oxygen. The EMS folk could not get a temperature reading on him. After donning dry, warm clothes from his truck he headed towards home. The following morning he and Gemma returned to the Falls and found the boat and retrieved it. The paddle was retrieved a couple days later by a kayaker friend.

In commenting on the lessons learned from the experience Richard mentioned several including: "1. Going out there alone was one of the worse decisions I made in my boating career. It won't happen again, not there or under those conditions anyway. 2. the SWR (swiftwater rescue) course I took helped me handle the situation better than I would have otherwise, money well spent."

BoaterTalk FAQ: Storing a Kayak

by Richard L. Hartman (rlhartman / RLH)

BEST: Standing Upright The best storage position is upright on the stern, with the planing surface flush to the wall. This position minimizes stress on the planing surface, and also takes up the least floorspace. Standing up the kayak in a corner where it can rest against two walls is an easy, zero-installation approach.

Some kayaks will want to tip away from the wall when their stern is pushed close to the wall, and you will want to keep the kayak from falling to the left or right anyway, so you'll need some sort of rack-like device to keep it vertical. One inch Schedule 200 (thin wall) PVC pipe is great for this purpose: it's cheap, available at almost any hardware store, and the only required tool is a hacksaw. The cheap brackets used for mounting electrical conduit are perfect for holding the rack to a wall. For a single kayak, build a PVC rectangle approximately 12x24 inches and attach it to the wall about five feet from the floor (adjust height depending upon bow profile). Don't even bother to glue the fittings - just pound them snug. This will take four 90 degree elbows and one ten foot section of one inch PVC, at a total cost of around five bucks. (If you're as nutty about your kayaks as I am, you'll spend a few extra dollars on that foam pipe insulation so your kayak will rest against padded surfaces!)

When storing the kayak, insert its bow from below and then push the stern toward the wall, which will push the bow up through the rectangle. Once the kayak is on its stern, the bow will be above the rack and won't fall out. To remove the kayak, lift it slightly off the floor and pull the stern away from the wall until the bow clears the rack.

For multiple kayaks, use a combination of T's and elbows to build as big a rack as you need. This is where not using glue pays off... if you need to expand your rack, just pull apart the existing one and add new parts as required! I currently store four kayaks in only 16 square (2x8) feet of floor space using this approach. Each of the kayaks is individually accessible without rearranging the others. I can install/remove float bags or perform other cockpit work while the kayak remains in the rack. Very convenient, very cheap, and ideal for preventing oilcanning.

NEXT BEST: On its side If you absolutely cannot stand the kayak up on its stern, the next choice is on its side on the floor. This reduces the stress on the planing surface (though not as much as the upright-stern orientation). Avoid the temptation to store objects on top of the kayak's upper sidewall... the idea is to reduce the stress on the planing surface, and adding weight will do just the opposite.

WORST CASE: Upside Down If for some horrible reason (what, the kayak must fit under your bed?) you cannot store the kayak upright nor on its side, the only other practical option is upside down on its cockpit. Do not rest anything on the planing hull - doing so will utterly defeat the whole idea of reducing stress on the planing surface.

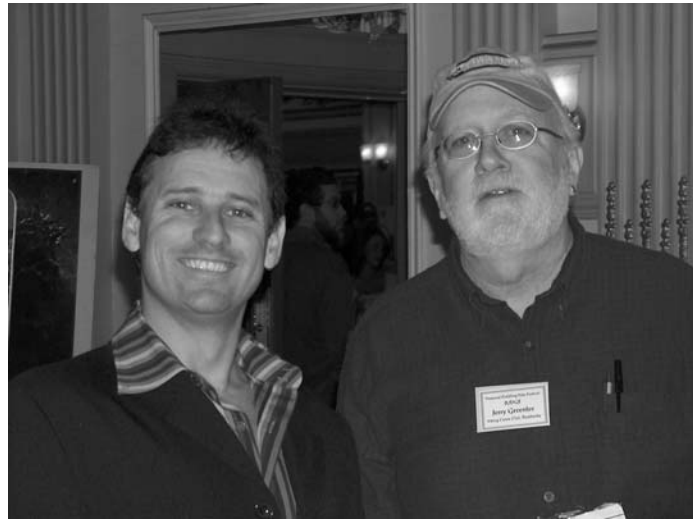
UNACCEPTABLE By this time it should be obvious that storing a planing hull kayak on the ground on its planing surface is a terrible choice. Doing so focuses the entire weight of the kayak directly on the area you're trying to protect. (Incidentally, carrying kayaks on roof racks in this manner is a bad idea too.)

National Paddling Film Fest

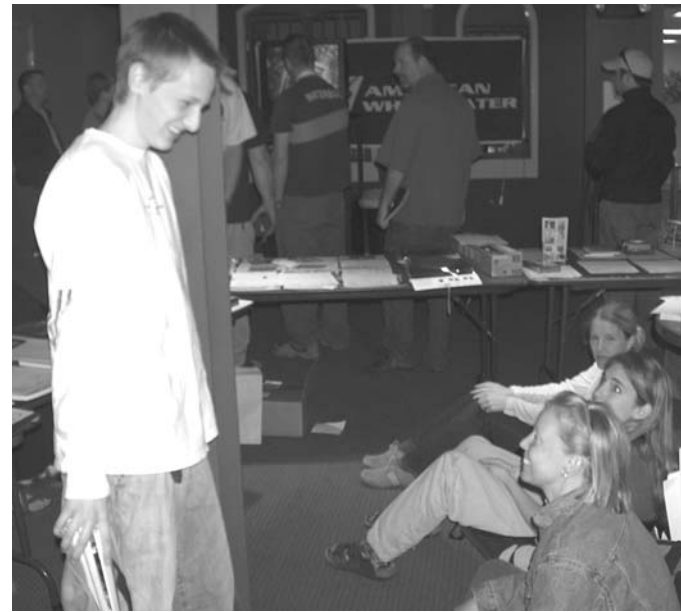
The 2004 NPFF on February 28th was a solid winner in all categories possible. Rounds of kudos to our friends at Bluegrass Wildwater Association for putting together a classy event. There was a significant representation of Vikings in attendance. Three members lent their time and talents as volunteers: Gary Ress and Paul Webb manned the ticket table for period and Jerry Greenlee served as a Judge in the Accomplished Division. Corran Addison was the guest of honor and did an outstanding job in that capacity. His talk regarding river safety was especially timely. His main concern is that the use of play boats for river running is creating a rise in river fatalities. His opinion is that playboats are inherently dangerous for hard river running due to their design.

and the winners are...

Best of Festival Paddler's Choice winner
Cheat River Canyon - Rick Gusic
Best of Amateur Division
White Noise 2 - Alex Kinsey & Goudi Vandal
Best of Professional Division
Playboating with Ken Whiting
Winner Accomplished - General Boating
Local Hero - Benjamin Hayes
2004 Best Paddling Image
by David Allnutt
Image of "The Box at Climax", on the Russell Fork



Viking Views Editor Jerry Greenlee with Corran Addison, guest speaker of the NPFF.



Paul Reiss cutting up with the volunteers at the silent auction.



Charlie and Donna Sloan checking out the new Jackson Kayak line.



Presidents Message

By the time this edition of the Viking Views get delivered it will be officially Spring! I don't know about you but I'm ready for warmer weather so I can get out there on the water. But first we have a few things left over from the winter to wrap up.

This years roll sessions have gone extremely well. The new facility at the Executive Inn has worked out well even with the late 9:00 pm start time. The folks over the Mary T. Magher Aquatic Center have gone out of their way to accommodate us as well. The paddle and climb day set up by Paul Webb resulted in the largest turn out we have had for a roll session since the loss of the U of L pool. I was also pleased with the turn out at the annual dinner meeting. There were a number of Vikings members there that I had not seen in a long time.

A large contingent of Vikings also attended the National Paddling Film Festival in Lexington in February. The guest speaker for the Festival was noted paddler, boat designer, and filmmaker, Corran Addison. While the first part of his presentation had to do with his film making most of us were shocked by the second part of his speech. Corran feels that white water paddling is rapidly going from become one of the safest sports to one of the most deadly. He feels this way for two reasons. The first is that new white water paddlers are progressing so rapidly that their skills are outpacing their experience. Boaters today have access to technology and instructional information that did not exist a few years ago. They have the skills to run big water but don't have the judgment experience to understand the consequences of things going wrong. The second is that paddlers are using the wrong equipment in big water. Playboats don't belong in the big stuff. They are designed to catch edges and go vertical which is not something you want to happen when running a line that has lethal consequences if you miss it. In addition Corran also noted that these cool looking helmets sold today do not have the kind of coverage to really protect your head. I've greatly condensed what Corran Addison had to say but I found it very refreshing to see a noted paddler saying there is a lack of emphasis on safety in the sport. I was harping about the same thing in the club last season after we had a few close calls on area rivers.

Along those lines you should find information on the 2 day swift water rescue class that we will be having in May. This will be the first time in several years that we have had one of these in the club. There are plenty of paddlers in the club that have not had this training and I would encourage each of you to consider it if you are planning to paddle white water. To encourage you to addend this training the club is heavily subsidizing the class to make it affordable.

You will also find in this issue the schedule of trips and events that the club has put together for the first part of the Summer. The good news for you non white water paddlers out there is that we have at least one flat water trip going out each month in May, June and July. I would like to thank the group of Viking volunteers that put this schedule together. Hopefully we have enough variety that every club member will have an opportunity to make a trip.

See you on the river,

Kevin Jones
President.