



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

This is the 21st year of the National Paddling Film Festival. It is a judged competition of amateur and professional paddlesport image artists submitting entries of film, video and digital images. Attend the festival and help judge the entries while watching the best and freshest in paddlesport

**Action Packed Whitewater NFFF DVDs!**  
 see YOUR runs on the  
 Gauley River, WV  
 Tallulah Gorge, GA  
 NF Feather, CA  
 60 minute high quality DVDs created to support river conservation



For 21 years the NFFF has existed to bring together paddling enthusiasts from across the country and the world to share their talents and

The special guest for the 2004 NFFF is **CORRAN ADDISON!** He is the renowned champion freestyle and expedition paddler, whitewater kayak designer, author and film maker. from virtually every corner of the world. professional entries and included paddling footage of the rivers and seas reservation. In 2003, the NFFF featured 25 amateur, accomplished and



## Annual Dinner Meeting

The Viking's annual dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Middletown Woman's Club. The club is located at 11719 Shelbyville Road in Middletown, on the north side between Blankenbaker Parkway and Evergreen Road. This is the same location that we have had the meeting the past few years. The dinner will be pot luck so bring your favorite dish and/or a couple of two liter soft drinks to share. Adult beverages will be BYOB. Prizes will be awarded for you dishes in the following categories: Best Appetizer, Best Meat entree, Best Veggie entree, Best Side Dish, Best Dessert

We will be having a door prize drawing and a silent auction. I have gotten commitments so far from NOC, Werner, Shred Ready, ACE, Beauty Mountain Sport and Lotus Designs on donating some items so we should have a good selection of items this year. In addition swap meet tables will be available for you to try and rid you self of excess gear. Bring your whole family, as this will be one of the few Viking events that won't involve getting wet!

*Directions: Take I-64 to North Blankenbaker Parkway Exit 17. Go North on Blakenbaker Parkway until it tees into Shelbyville Rd. Turn right onto Shelbyville Road, go through the second light (Madison Ave.). The Woman's club will be off of the next Street on the left.*

## Cumberland Trip Report

On September 27th a group of 20 persons ran the Cumberland River on the section below the falls. In addition to members of the club, we were accompanied by Tim Richy from Indianapolis and Randy Offutt & Ann Colt from Frankfort.

The weather started out fairly decent temperature wise. While on the river a cold front moved through with lightening thunder, and rain. The rain was especially heavy while we were at Surfers Rapids. A number of persons complained about the rain getting them wet. It didn't seem to bother those who swam on the trip.

As we neared the end of the run the temperature commenced dropping considerably sending chills through those who didn't wear their dry tops. All of the rapids were running nicely, several at Class II+. The river was running somewhere around 900-1000 cfs. Kevin Jones, the trip organizer, described the water level and volume as "sweet:." There was ample opportunity for the playboaters to show off with their stern squirts and rodeo moves. Center Rock Rapid (Class III) was a challenge met by most of the party with a couple of people winding up in the drink.

After loading our boats and gear we stood around drinking beer and yapping. The favorite topic of discussion was centered around surgical problems and operations: gall bladders, colonoscopies, etc. John Pillitteri observed: "You can tell we are an aging bunch if all we can talk around are our surgeries." At the end of the day Gary led a group of hungry paddlers to his favorite eating place for a Corbin burger.

# Time to Head to the Pool

This year we will have two pools available for Roll Sessions. Sunday morning roll sessions will take place from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Mary T. Meagher Aquatic Center. We will also have a Saturday evening roll sessions from 9:00pm to 11:00pm at the Executive Inn. However, we will not be at both locations on the same weekend.

Please keep an eye on the Viking List Serve, or the Viking Forum on the web site for any schedule changes. It is possible for roll sessions at the Aquatics Center to be preempted by Swim Meets. If we get enough notice, the session for that weekend will be moved to the Executive Inn.

This is a total of 9 Scheduled Roll Session. A 10th may be added depending on the attendance of the proceeding roll sessions. The Executive Inn will work much like the UofL roll sessions have in the past, we have the whole pool to ourselves for 2 hours. For the sessions at the MTM Aquatic Center we will be sharing the pool with the public. Cost for the roll sessions will be \$6 for members and \$12 for non-members. We will be advertising the Executive Inn session to the public but keeping the MTM aquatic center sessions mainly for club members.

I shouldn't have to remind everyone of the ugliness that happened back at the U of L pool. Please everyone wash and disinfect your boats before coming to the roll session. This will be the first time we have had roll session at the Executive Inn. Lets not alienate them by being sloppy or lazy when it comes to having a clean boat. For this reason float bags will not be allowed and all boats will be inspected before they are placed into the pool. The only other restriction that we currently have is that the Executive Inn does not want us to seal launch from the side of the pool for fear of damaging the tiled edge of the pool.

We have a verbal commitment from KOC to bring demo boats to as many roll sessions as they can. If you are interested in a particular boat please contact them the week before the roll session to make sure they are coming and to bring the boat you want try along. Additionally, we need volunteers for instructors. Please let me know if you would be willing to instruct and what sessions you could be available.

## Directions to MTM Aquatic Center:

Located at 201 Reservoir Ave. which is off of Frankfort Avenue. You can come in via I-71 or I-64.

*I-71 Directions: Take I-71 to the Zorn Avenue Exit. Take Zorn Avenue South (away from the river) to the stop light at the top of the hill at the intersection with Brownsboro Rd. Take a left onto Brownsboro Rd. Reservoir Ave is the second right on Brownsboro.*

*I-64 Directions. Take I-64 to the Grinstead Drive Exit. Go East on Grinstead Drive (away from Cherokee park). It will Tee into Stiltz Ave, turn left onto Stiltz Ave. The next intersection is Frankfort Ave. Turn right onto Frankfort Ave. Reservoir Ave is the third left off of Frankfort Ave.*

## Directions to the Executive Inn

*The Executive Inn is located at the intersection of Freedom Way and Phillips Lane, between the KY Fair and Exposition Center and the Watterson Expressway. Take the Watterson Expressway to the fairgrounds, follow the signs to Fair/Expo Center Main Gate. This will place you directly in front on the KY Fair and Exposition Center Main Gate and a stop light at Phillips Lane.*

*Executive Inn is the Hotel to your immediate right at the stop light at the main gate. Turn right and the light and then right again into the hotel parking lot. Proceed past the hotel lobby, turn left at the corner of the hotel. Turn left again at the next corner of the hotel. Directly ahead of you will be a glass enclosed extension off the side of the Hotel. This is the pool. There is a set of double doors on the left hand side. They have a sign stating "Indoor Pool Hours". This is where we will enter and take the boats in.*

**Saturday Jan 3rd, 2004 - Executive Inn 9-11pm**  
**Sunday Jan 11th - MTM Aquatic Center 10am - 12pm**  
**Saturday Jan 17th - Dinner Meeting - No Roll Session that weekend**

**Saturday Jan 24th - Executive Inn 9-11pm**  
**Sunday Feb 1st - MTM Aquatic Center 10am - 12pm**  
**Saturday Feb 7th - Executive Inn 9-11pm**  
**Sunday Feb 15th - MTM Aquatic Center 10am - 12pm**  
**Saturday Feb 21st - Executive Inn 9-11pm**  
**Saturday Feb 28th - National Paddling Film Festival - No Roll Session that Weekend**  
**Saturday March 6th as the Executive Inn, 9pm-11pm**  
**Monday Mar 8th - Monthly Viking Meeting**  
**Saturday Mar 13th - Executive In 9-11pm**

# Presidents Message

When I talk to someone outside of the paddling community the conversation usually goes something like this:

"I am a member of the Viking Canoe Club"

"So you own a Canoe"

"No I actually own several Kayaks"

"Those things like the Eskimos use?"

"Not exactly they are all white water kayaks"

"I've been white water rafting"



At this point I just usually let the person run with it, they at least have their mind on the right type of river. But these kinds of conversations always lead me back to the same though in my mind. What exactly is the Viking Canoe Club ?

Are we a white water kayaking club ? You might think so from the vast majority of people I have met in the club. However open boaters like Charlie Buccola and Skip Medley would probably object to that. So we are not discriminatory towards a members choice of boat.

Are we exclusively a whitewater club? We do roll sessions, swift water rescue clinics, a beginners whitewater clinic and a picnic that is usually near whitewater. So it might look like we are whitewater oriented. But some of us have been know to do something else occasionally. An overnight canoe camping trip, or a flatwater trip. I've met maybe 30 or so of the 70 plus rostered households in the club. If you are not doing white water then what kind of water are you doing ? I would really like to know.

In the end the Viking Canoe Club is what its members make of it. The easiest way to set the direction of the club is to volunteer and be active in the club. You do not have to be an officer. It could be as simple as leading a small trip (even a flatwater one) or organizing a social event. Very shortly we will be putting a trip and event schedule for the first part of 2004. If there is something that you would really like the club to do, or a trip that you would like to see us go on, please let me know.

See on the River, wherever and whatever your paddling.

## Safety Chair Needed

Do you dream of Z-Drags and Figure 8 knots? Do you actually know what a throw rope is for? If so, you just might be interested in being the Viking Canoe Club's safety chair. The responsibility of the Safety Chair include organizing safety classes (Swiftwater rescue, CPR & First Aid) and generally promoting safe boating inside the club. If you are interested in serving in this position please contact Kevin Jones at 502-426-6155 krjone01@aye.net

## 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.

**Send Your Newsletter Submissions\*\* to:**  
**vikingviews@bellsouth.net**

\*\*Please send your stories in a .txt file and photos as jpg or tif

## Viking Canoe Club Officers

**President: Kevin Jones 502-426-6155**

**VP, John Pillitteri**

**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**

## Russell Fork cont.

Much too soon, the rapids were all behind us and the day's paddling was over. As we arrived at the takeout at Gardenhole, an ambulance was carefully backing down to the river's edge. An unfortunate paddler had dislocated his shoulder on Tower rapid downstream, and it took two-and-a-half hours for him and his friends to hike back up to meet the ambulance.

A few Vikings had to leave, but the majority of us spent the rest of the afternoon hiking through the gorge.

This involved climbing up to the railroad tracks, nervously scampering between parked coal cars, and then tripping through the train tunnel. On the other side of the tunnel were the "trails" that led down to several of the big rapids. Some of us slid down to watch the action at Triple Drop, and others went further down the tracks to see El Horrendo. These rapids made Twenty Stitches look like a drinking fountain!

Well, the sun was fading and the water level dropping, but not all the action was over. After hiking back to the takeout, a few diehard adventure seekers, namely Sam, Paul R. and James, drug their boats over to a small clearing maybe twenty feet above the river. They got back in their boats and slid down a narrow path, accelerating rapidly to the river below. When their kayaks finally hit the water, the sound they made was like a shotgun being fired. It was the Mother of all Seal Launches.

Later that evening, hungry as bears, we headed into town and shared a feast at the "Rusty Fork" restaurant, then finished off the day with another campfire back at the campground. Thanks to all who helped make this another successful Viking adventure.



From: Courtney & Jimmy on BOATERTALK

Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2003 09:46:35 -0800

## Subject: Copperhill Sulfuric Acid Plant seeks to re-open upstream of Ocoee

Folks, efforts are currently underway to reopen the old sulfuric acid manufacturing plant on the banks of the Ocoee in Copperhill (UPSTREAM from the gorge).

This is a known toxic waste site, where runoff must be collected and groundwater pumped out to try to control its spread into the river and nearby property.

When it closed several years ago, most of us thought that we were headed toward an eventual cleanup at the site. But this

may not be the case. Its owners have filed for a permit (Title V) from the EPA via TDEC to allow the plant to produce acid and other sulfur products while being allowed to discharge 60-100 tons of chemical by-products per year into the local environment.

There is a hearing Dec. 18 in Ducktown in response to local opposition to this permit. I live in Copperhill and have been working with a group of area residents to help rouse and organize opposition to the plant reopening. We need any help we can get, including but certainly not limited to:

- 1) People to attend the hearing and associated demonstrations on the 18th. Yes, it is an interesting coincidence that they scheduled this in the middle of winter when most paddlers weren't here.
- 2) Pointers or introductions to anyone in organizations like AWA or ACA who can help us with strategy, advice, legal aid, etc, both for the permit hearing and the anticipated battle that will ensue...
- 3) Folks to write letters to politicians expressing their concern.
- 4) Insight, details or additional facts which may not have come to light so far.

This is serious. There is more to the story than I can tell here, a real epic of ecopolitics and abuse, that spans years. If anyone can help in any way, or would like additional information, please get in touch with me. My name is Michael Halpin, and I can be reached via email at ghalpin@tds.net.

Help protect this river !

**ANNUAL VIKING POLAR BEAR CRUISE JANUARY 1, 2004!**

Look for details to develop on listserv.



# Russell Fork Trip Report

By Gary Ress

The second weekend of October, twenty or so Vikings met at Breaks Interstate Park to run the Upper Russell Fork. Harry arrived early Friday afternoon and managed to secure four of the best sites in the Park for those of us camping. Others were roughing it in numerous hotels around Elkhorn City, and our Secretary Paul Webb was bedded down in Pikeville with his wife and daughter.

After enjoying a nice campfire for several hours (supplied by Harry - thanks Harry!), we all retired for the night. Saturday morning we met at 8:30 to set up the shuttle. Three or four trucks were left at the takeout at Gardenhole, and the rest of the vehicles headed upstream to the putin below Flannagan Dam with the boats and gear. With twenty plus boaters all in one group, there was a concern for safety. After debating the merits of splitting into smaller groups, we decided instead to use a buddy system. This worked very well, probably due to the fact that everyone had at least a few rivers under their belts and the worst rapid was a class III.

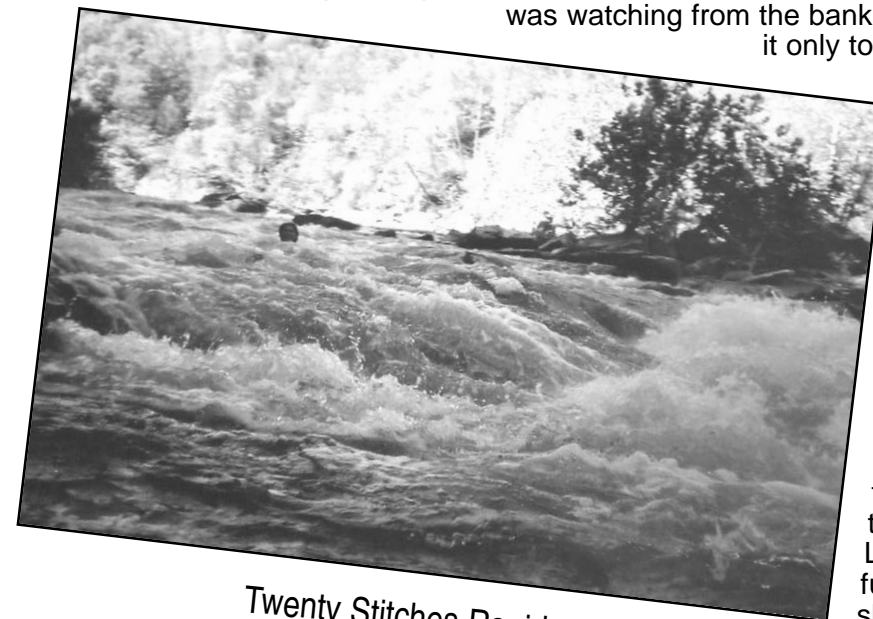
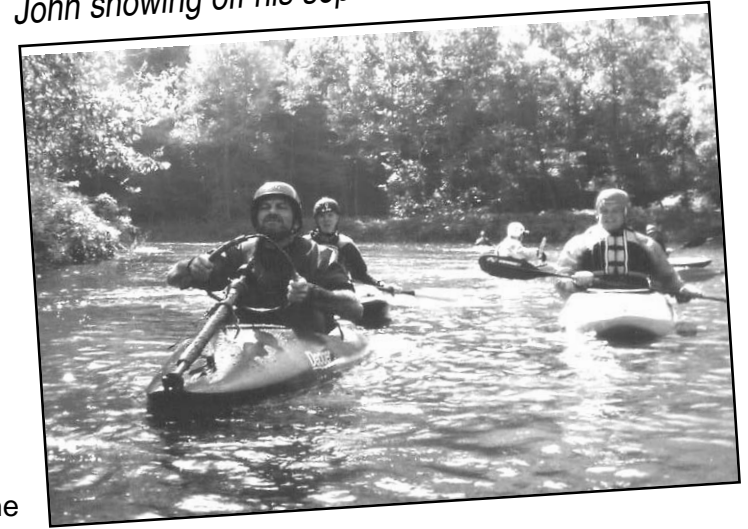
A little after 10 o'clock, with the shuttle behind us and the weather turning fantastic, we all launched our boats and headed down the Pound River for the day's adventure. Well, it didn't take five minutes for the carnage to start. Without warning a paddlesnake attacked Steve, violently capsizing his kayak, and forcing the first swim of the day. That same snake would attack Steve again though the course of the day, but never could make him swim again. Way to go Steve! The frustrated paddlesnake finally left him alone, instead searching out a few other victims.

By the time we reached the confluence of the Pound and the Russell Fork, we were pretty warmed up and ready for bigger action. Just ahead was the drop over Bartlick dam, and everyone had fun running it, including several doing it for the first time. We spent at least forty-five minutes there, some watching and others playing in the hole below the dam. It was a little sticky in spots, especially if you got caught side-surfing next to the concrete pier, as John P. will attest to. But if you were in the right place, the foamy pile would reward you with some nice spin moves, as evidenced by hotdog playboaters James, Chris and Jerad.

A couple of open boaters, Jim and Charlie, took off there, but another kayaker joined us. Marnie was watching from the bank and was not planning on paddling that day, but it only took a little persuasion from the group to convince her that she would have more fun on the river. She had a fine day, even when she parked her barge of a boat atop two rocks and had to be rescued.

The group moved on down the river, stopping above Twenty Stitches to scout. As the rest of the group watched, Jerad, Chris and I barreled on down the middle of the rapid, trying to show them the lines. We waited at the bottom, ready to aid in any rescues that might be needed. One by one the Vikings made their way down, most arriving in one piece and right side up. But poor Anne decided to surf a hole near the top of the rapid, and the same paddlesnake that caught Steve earlier nailed her good. Luckily I managed a snapshot of her swim for future generations to share. I'm sure one day she'll appreciate that.

John showing off his sophisticated steering system



Twenty Stitches Rapid

continued on another page

# What We Be Paddling In?

I have felt it is not my place to take a stance regarding any particular political party. I know our club consists of Democrats, Republicans, Green Party, etc. Recent events have caused me to reflect on this policy. What we value about our sport is under increasing attack by the current Congress and the Bush administration.

First of all, the EPA recently proposed a new policy that would allow partially treated sewage to be released directly into rivers and streams during heavy rains.

On November 3rd, the EPA proposed a "sewage blending" policy that would allow wastewater treatment plants to divert sewer flows during periods of heavy rains and snowmelts to bypass an important required biological treatment phase. The partially treated water would then be mixed with properly treated wastewater and poured back into rivers and streams nationwide.

This blending policy poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. Blending treated and untreated wastewater fails to remove deadly disease producing pathogens from the water. These pathogens can cause illnesses such as respiratory infections, hepatitis, and dysentery. Releasing partially treated wastewater would also lead to fish kills, beach closings, and the destruction of shellfish beds.

Secondly, On December 3rd, 2003 President Bush announced the passing of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, also known as the Healthy Forest Initiative. This controversial piece of legislation is intended to reduce the impact of wildfires but critics say it will do little to alleviate wildfires and will instead increase industrial logging of old growth and other sensitive areas. Sean Cosgrove of the Sierra Club says the legislation will increase logging in roadless areas as timber companies try to harvest valuable old-growth trees. No one know hows this act will affect the rivers and streams we paddle we paddle on. We will just have to wait and see.

The third piece comes from California where the U.S. Forest Service recently planned to poison Silver King Creek within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area in the Toiyabe National Forest with rotenone. While this project has been stopped the intent is alarming. The project was designed to kill off non-native fish in order to return the Paiute trout, and endangered species to the stream. The trout can not survive in the presence of the exotic fish. The Center for Biological Diversity, Nancy Erman, a prominent Sierra Nevada aquatic biologist and attorney Julia Olson of Wild Earth Advocates filed the successful legal action against the Forest Service filed suit to stop the project. Rotenone is a toxic chemical. For further info about this chemical you can visit:

<http://ace.ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/pips/rotenone.htm>

Imagine the possible future facing us as we launch our boats at our favorite streams: floating \*%\$#, silt from logging roads, and deadly poisons. Can you imagine kayaking and canoeing with scuba tanks on our backs. If we don't do something come next election time, we may be in serious trouble.

*Note: The above stories are taken from American Rivers, American Whitewater, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The Editor*

## Attention Vikings & Viking Wannabees... A reminder

All memberships expire December 31, 2003. Please renew and/or join the Viking Canoe Club. Dues are due for 2004. Please see the enclosed membership application. Send dues to: Kipp Downing, 6611 Huff Lane, Louisville, Ky 40216.

**Congratulations! Best wishes to the newly weds Pat and Amanda Collins were happily united in holy matrimony last month. Now she is an official shuttle bunny!**

**Question: What is the longest trail of kayaks and canoes ever to have assembled on the Ohio River?**

**Answer: The Ohio River Way Paddlefest, June 28, 2003, Cincinnati, Ohio. Plan now to be a part of the record breaker on July 10, 2004!**

# People in the Boats!

Paddler Paul Webb

A central figure in recent Viking Canoe Club history is none other than Paul Webb. Paul has served as Secretary for the club and been involved in many facets of the club. He has been instrumental in many folk learning to roll. He is always ready with an encouraging word for the new paddlers. Conversation never lags when with Paul. Paul and Anne Marie have one daughter Sydney. Paul can be found playing with Sydney when not on the river. During the day Paul can be found hard at work across the river in Clarksville working beneath the "huge" clock at Colgate-Palmolive.

Paul was queried lately about his paddling. Paul is fairly new to whitewater paddling himself, having only started three years ago. He usually gets out on the river around twenty plus times a year. He derives his greatest joy and enjoyment from paddling in getting to meet all different types of people.

His favorite paddling spot is the Russell Fork River in eastern Kentucky. He loves it there as it is "Not too hard or too easy and it has beautiful scenery."

Paul is a fearless man of iron. He only gets the butterflies when getting on rivers he has never paddled before. He does admit that his greatest fear on the river is ". . . undercut rocks . . ."

He says the funniest thing that has happened to him while paddling was watching Dan Molnar get trashed in a hole at Center Rock Rapid on the Cumberland River back last May 25th. In responding to what is the scariest thing that has happened to him while paddling, Paul responded: "Watching Dan Molnar get trashed in a hole at Center Rock Rapid on the Cumberland River."

Paul says that his formal paddling lessons have been taken at the Kipp Downing School of Kayaking. That is one hell of a school as most of us can attest too. Very demanding and exacting.

Paul's dream paddling trip is to take a multi-day trip through the Grand Canyon.

Sitting around the campfire after a hard day paddling Paul can be found drinking one of his favorite beverages: Rolling Rock, Yuengling or Samuel Adams. The man has class! (You know what to get him next time.)

In considering new paddlers Paul offers this advice: "Take your time and paddle rivers that are within your ability. If you do not feel comfortable about running a river, do not do it."

## DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO AMERICAN WHITEWATER!



American Whitewater is fortunate to have found an extraordinary partner to provide a vehicle donation service. You donate a clunker and they do the rest. You receive a tax receipt upon its sale and AW receives the donation! A donation can be a win for everyone involved. For further information go to: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/donate/>

## “Viking Canoe Club T-shirts are the hot new fashion trend for 2004, Madonna called from NYC and ordered 10 shirts!”

There are several of you that have ordered T-Shirts but have not picked them up yet. You can pick up the shirts at the Monthly Meetings and the January Dinner. I can also mail you the shirts for a additional \$5 per order. Send me a check for the shirts (\$10 each) and postage (\$5) along with your size to the following address: Paul Webb, 13700 Saddle Creek Dr., Louisville, KY 40245

PS - I also have some extra shirts for those slackers that forgot to order one. If you would like to order one, email me at : [paul\\_webb@colpal.com](mailto:paul_webb@colpal.com) or call 502-241-2696.