HUT!

SEPTEMBER – 1970

MCA DIRECTORY ISSUE
ST. CROIX SLALOM PROGRAM



HUT!
VOL. 4 NO. 11

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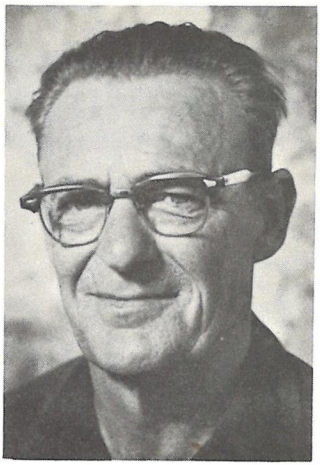
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 13	Upper St. Croix Cruise, Curt Mommsen, Leader
Sept. 16	Activities Meeting, Clyde Ryberg, Speaker
Sept. 19-20	Fourth Annual St. Croix Whitewater Slalom
Sept. 23	Board Meeting at Jeff Howe's 7:30 P.M.
Sept. 26-27	Flambeau River Cruise, Larry Johns, Leader
Oct. 4	Lower St. Croix Cruise and Canoe Contest
Oct. 10	Rum River Cruise, Al Wisniak, Leader
Oct. 21	Annual Meeting — Program Pending
Nov. 6	MCA Annual Banquet, Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul

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HUT! Magazine is published monthly by the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization, and is distributed to more than 1000 members and numerous friends of the MCA across the nation. Our purpose is to distribute information about canoe sports and canoe camping to preserve and promote wild rivers, to effect conservation of canoeable waterways, and to encourage canoeing as family recreation.

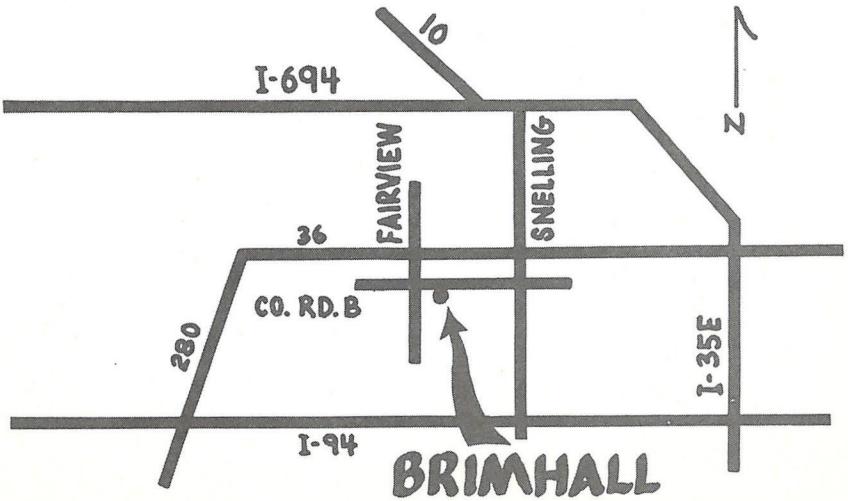


Clyde Ryberg to Speak at September Meeting

The September meeting of the MCA will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 1970, at 7:30 p.m. at Brimhall School, 1744 West County Road B, Roseville. (Use Fairview exit off Highway #36, drive south 1 block to semaphore and turn east 1/2 block.

Clyde Ryberg, Project Coordinator for the Jonathan Development Corporation of Chaska, Minnesota, will present an interesting and thought provoking program on Development of Additional Minnesota Rivers for Canoeists. Mr. Ryberg notes that less than 1/3 of Minnesota waterways have been charted and developed and that there is considerable interest in substantially increasing this number.

The members of the Sierra Club have been invited to join us and the public is invited to attend.



CRUISING CAPERS



Upper St. Croix Cruise — Sunday, September 13, 1970
Curt Mommsen 537-3564

A cruise is planned from Nelson's landing, north of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, to the Grantsburg bridge on Highway 70. For details call the cruise leader.

Flambeau River Cruise — Saturday-Sunday
Larry Johns, 633-6734 — September 26-27

On September 26-27 we plan to celebrate the end of the deerfly season by camping and canoeing on the Flambeau River. Plans are to meet in Park Falls around noon on Saturday, run a short stretch of the River that afternoon and camp between Notch Rock Rapids and Island Rapids (one of the most beautiful primitive campsites you'll ever see). This will give us the opportunity to run the rapids more than once and to fish the pool below Notch Rock. We will finish the trip on Sunday in time for an early start home. Call Larry Johns at 633-6734 if you'd like to join us.

Rum River Cruise — Saturday, October 10, 1970
Al Wisniak 521-5029

Looking forward to a brief escape from hectic every day life? Join with Al and others for this Rum River Cruise just a few miles north of the Twin Cities.

The group will be paddling from County Road # 22 bridge, about nine miles north of Anoka, easily accessible from County Road #47 which starts in Anoka, to the Anoka County Fairgrounds in Anoka. Al wants to start around 10:00 in the morning and thinks it will take about 5 - 6 hours to complete the trip. He has been on this section of the Rum River several times before and feels it is a good family trip with no rapids or other dangers.

According to Minnesota Voyageur Trails the Rum River flows through land which is "...heavily wooded, primarily elm, oak, maple and ash trees. The channel is about 50 - 60 feet wide...the river retains its north woods atmosphere."

So get on the ball and give cruise leader Al Wisniak a call to let him know you are going on the Rum River Cruise.

Ham Kurtz

Annual Lower St. Croix Cruise

October 4
Sunday

So I turned to my buddy, Charlie, and asked him what this Fourth Annual MCA St. Croix cruise was that he was so excited about. "It's my chance to show off my homemade canoe that I'm finishing now," he said, "and I get to see the other canoes made during the past year too. In addition there'll be the fun of meeting more MCA members during the cruise and during supper at O'Brien State Park." Then he gave me a sly wink and continued, "This year I'm going to win the finest canoe balloting. Every year we vote on the finest canoes built during the year, both molded and wood strip, and every year I've lost." My interest aroused, I asked him to continue. "Come out to the garage," he said. As we walked out he mentioned that canoeists should meet at Interstate Park at Taylors Falls around ten to start the trip and shuttle cars to O'Brien State Park, sixteen miles downstream. Food for the supper at O'Brien would be staying in the cars and each canoeist provides his own. He also mentioned that those who come a little later or who don't want to paddle as far could put in at Osceola at the Highway #243 bridge and have about a nine-mile trip. I responded that those who don't want to paddle at all could just come to O'Brien State Park for supper and a good look at all the new and old canoes. The fall colors should add to the trip, too. Charlie paused as he opened the garage door. "This is my finest effort. Be prepared to see the next step in canoe building." As he flicked the light on, I stood amazed. "Yup," said Charlie, "it's cast iron. As far as I know the first cast iron canoe ever made. Ain't it a beauty?" Astounded, I pressed him for details. "I got the idea for it while sitting in the bathtub one evening," he said as he hooked up the chain hoist to lift it to show me the bottom. "Even got contour seats like other fancy canoes. Got mine from old farm tractors. A little paint and they look like new." I asked if he was going to paint the outside, but he was going to leave it in the natural finish, though eventually it might turn a dull red through weathering. "I'm going to add a keel to it since I've always preferred keels on my canoes. I've got an old I-beam from a junk yard for that." I couldn't argue with his practical building techniques. As the hoist clanked and lowered the canoe, I noticed the carrying yoke. In response to my query Charlie said, "Well--I'll agree it ain't too useful, but all the other guys have yokes on their canoes." Did he think it would be fast? "Probably not, but then again it made up for speed with durability." As we left the garage, Charlie reminded me not to miss the Annual St. Croix Cruise, October 4, if for no other reason than to see him win the finest canoe award. I assured him I'd be there with my obsolete aluminum canoe and a packed supper. As I started my engine, Charlie suddenly asked, "Could you lend me your welding outfit? Next week I'm working on paddles to match my canoe."

Ham Kurtz



CANOE BUILDERS CONTEST

"I prefer fiberglass. No, I like wood better! Look at this one! Say, now there's an unusual design. Who belongs to this one?" It's the annual MCA Canoe Builders Contest at O'Brien State Park. There are wooden canoes, glass canoes, big ones, racers, you name it--they'll be there. But will you? The Builders Contest is your opportunity to see the handiwork of your fellow members and to see the latest in canoe design and building techniques. The three divisions to be judged are: wooden canoes, fiberglass canoes and decked whitewater boats. Now, under one roof, you can get all the builders together and ask them questions. Even if you aren't interested in building, bring Maw 'n the kids and join the cruise from Taylors Falls to O'Brien on Sunday, October 4. We'll land at O'Brien where the judging will be held. Come anyway and vote for your favorite canoe! See how your organization helps promote canoeing.

Where: O'Brien State Park, near the wooden bridge.
When: Sunday, September 20, 1970, about 10:00 a.m.
Why: Because we all have fun.

Cruise starts at Taylors Falls at 10:00 a.m. Shuttle service will be provided. Check time with Pam Foster.

FOUND

1 baby blanket, white cotton flannel, at Picnic Paddle, August 19. Call Kim Williams at 926-9279 or 373-8441.

LOST

1 pair square rim, brown sunglasses.
1 white Frisbee, at same picnic. For both lost items call Kim Williams at 926-9279 or 373-8441.

Credits for August HUT!

Cover Photo - Joe Conrad
Page 5 - Lockwatennial picture - Janet and Janice Robideaux
Page 9 - MCA History - Joe Conrad
Page 12 - Canoe Building - Curt Mommsen
Page 13 - 3M Canoe Club

Annual Election

Annual election of MCA officers will be held in October. Ballots will be mailed to the members and should be returned no later than Saturday, October 17. Since profiles of all the candidates were not available for this issue of HUT!, we will feature them in the next issue rather than publish only what we received.

The following candidates have been nominated.

President:	Bob Haug Bob O'Hara
Vice President:	Pam Foster Bob Haag Linda Jones
Secretary:	Jeannie Thielen
Treasurer:	Mike Hopkins Ian Richards
Three-year Director:	Joe Conrad Janet Robideaux
One-year Director:	Jeff Howe Curt Mommsen Beth Siemon Denny Withers



MISSISSIPPI CRUISE PROVES TO BE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Abner Jones reports that his most recent Mississippi River cruise proved to be very interesting with the low water this August. With eight canoes and one kayak, the group found small rapids where during normal water levels there had only been fast places. In one place the waves were about two feet high and really fun to shoot through. Several canoeists received practical lessons on how to "read" water as the river shallowed out into sand bars. Several times those who could "read" the water followed the current while others found themselves grounded on sand bars or paddling twice as hard to get downstream as others because they were in back eddies of the river. Couple all of this together with a beautiful day and it adds up to a very pleasant cruise.

Ham Kurtz

ACTING PRES

As I sat among the piles of clothes and equipment that I was getting ready for a three-week trip to the canoe races in Quebec, I was struck by the feeling of gratitude to the people who are helping make it all possible. Beth Siemon, MCA secretary, has taken over the membership records and all of the work that goes along with it. She is also sorting the club mail. Ed Klunder and Harold Beecroft are taking over HUT! mailing. Mike Flannery has jumped in with both feet to help as summer treasurer during Ian Richards sojourn in Europe. Paying the bills and balancing the books can be dull work when one would rather be at the beach or on the river. Special thanks to John and Wilma Kassakian who are in charge of arrangements for the Annual Banquet.

Jeff Howe

Annual MCA Banquet

November 6

We know this much about you: You Like Paddling! We're certain you'll like the great food, meeting old and new friends and unusual entertainment at the MCA Annual Banquet to be held Friday, November 6, at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul. Dinner is planned for 7:00 p.m.; then stay to join in the First Annual MCA After-Banquet Talent Show! See Al Button pluck a banjo! Watch Larry Gleason's gymnastic miracles! Thrill to Denny Withers' version of "Old Man River"! Better yet, add your name to the star-studded list. Call us soon to report your off-the-water talents and see your own name in lights!

We expect four hundred paddlers, friends and family, so you are sure to be doing some back-slapping and hand-shaking. We urge you to please make early reservations for dinner ($2.50/person). We must know the exact number of our group by November 1.

We think we have planned a very special evening; plan to be with us!

John and Wilma Kassakian
Banquet Chairmen
4953 Russell Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn. 55410
922-9268

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover – Al Stamm
Page 18 – Roy Conradi
Pages 20-21 – Barb Ketter
Whitewater pics for slalom section – Joe Conrad, Al Stamm and Bob Haug
Art for first page and map of slalom program by Larry Lapole

from the EDITOR

"Numerous a century ago, this race may now survive in only five places, including the Udjong Kulon Reserve (where the last population estimate was nine) and the Betiri Reserve...(five). Though shooting permits have been required in Java since 1940, uncontrolled hunting has brought this tiger and the Javan rhinocerous to the most perilous state..."--James Fisher in Wildlife in Danger.

"The big cats will never be eradicated by man," you may have thought, but on the contrary, the big cats are in big trouble as are a vast number of species on this planet. No canoeist needs to be told that the presence of man has a devastating influence on wildlife. Hunting and the destruction of habitat are the worst problems we face. Introduction of animals to a new area has also been the cause of wildlife destruction. Man is so destructive that the list of endangered species is growing at a rapid rate.

It is estimated that 76 percent of the extinct birds and 67 percent of the extinct mammals were lost because of man. The year 1600 is usually taken as the point where man has begun his destruction of fauna. In 1600 there were about 4,226 living species of mammals. Thirty-six percent of those have become extinct and 128 are in danger of extinction. In 1600 there were 8,684 living species of birds; 94 are now extinct and 187 are near extinction. Alan Solem of the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago states that "...man has wiped out 10,000 species of insects and snails in the last 200 years."

It is probable that the coming years will show us more problems. Some species of mouse have become extinct because a developer has simply plowed under their entire population. Some species of prairie grasses are virtually extinct because the prairie has been converted to farm land--but the DDT residues are a more complex problem. It will take more than effort to save our birds of prey. It seems probable that we will lose a great many battles to save endangered species because we will be too late. A single natural disaster will be sufficient to wipe out the whooping crane, no matter what its numbers, because of the limited habitat.

Species have always become extinct. Sometimes an ice age may have been the cause. More often it is another species which becomes better adapted to the environment and evolves as the dominant form. The extinction of man would not be a catastrophe in the natural sense. Many new forms would replace those we have destroyed and in a million years there would be no trace. The extinction of man would be a blessing with regard to life as a whole because, although we will soon have the ability to control life genetically, we threaten to put so much long range radioactivity into the earth that life could not maintain an undisturbed reproductive cycle and might mutate rampantly.

Alan Solem writes of his study of land snails: The island snails I now study are vanishing rapidly. Saving them is not possible..." Unlimited money, help, and cooperation would not be sufficient to reverse the trends. So I collect and I study. When I can, I help efforts to save natural areas and preserve endangered species. This still is little compared with the need."

3M Chapter Hosts Meeting

On August 19, our monthly meeting was held at the Ramsey County Beach on White Bear Lake. Approximately 150 people turned out for picnicking, paddling, sailing, swimming and socializing. The 3M Club supplied an abundance of watermelons. Ben Kern, who authors the feature "Your Weekend" for the Minneapolis Tribune interviewed many of the members at the meeting and was very interested in the variety of canoes present. This was the basis for his article which was printed on August 28.

1970 NATIONAL POLING CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 15-16, TIMES BEACH, MISSOURI

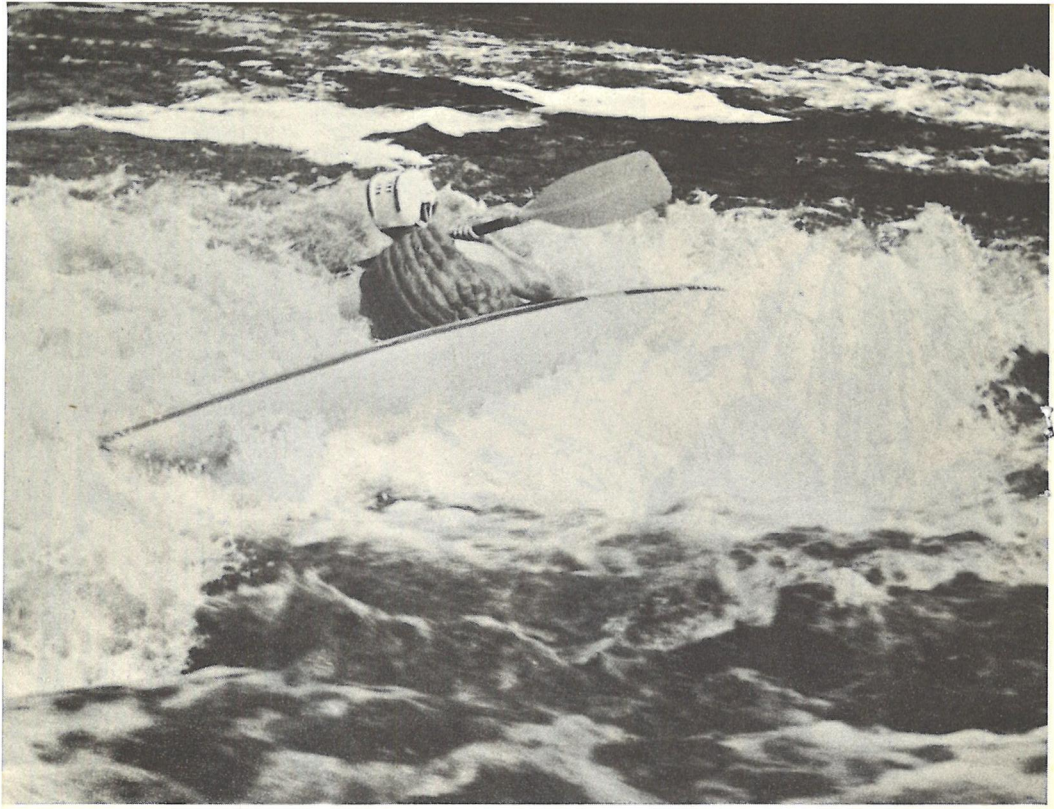
	DAY 1			DAY 2		
CONTESTANT	TIME	PEN.	TOTAL	TIME	PEN.	TOTAL
Jack Held	DNF		DNF	5:37	50	387
Pon Kloepper	DNF		DNF	6:10.	50	420.
Mike Guenther	8:01.*	100	581.	5:39	100	439
Jim Vogt	7:48.	250	718.	6:06	100	466
Al Beletz	7:09	50	479	6:30	100	490
Joe Mitchell	8:53.	100	633.	7:47	50	517
Duane Woltjen	14:02.	150	992.	6:46	200	606
Bob Fuchs	DNF		DNF	7:41	150	611
Dave Riek	DNF		DNF	9:30.	175	745.
Syl Beletz	DNF		DNF	DNF		DNF
Ron Ehmsen	DNF		DNF	DNF		DNF
Dave Guenther	DNF		DNF	DNF		DNF

* = .5

1970 NOVICE POLING CONTEST, AUGUST 16,
TIMES BEACH, MISSOURI

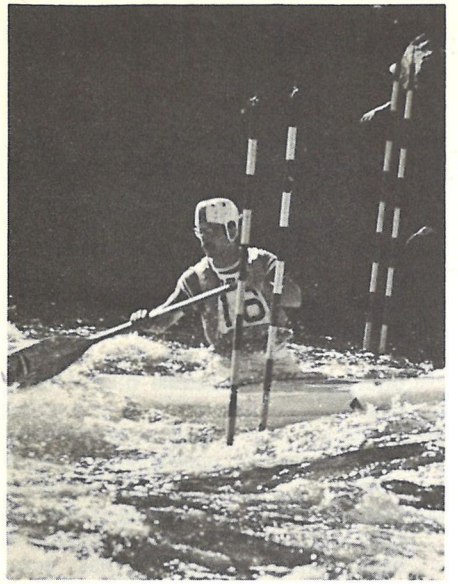
CONTESTANT	PLACE
Ken Prevallent	1st
Ken George	2nd
Robert Hellmann	3rd
Susan Kloepper	4th
Marty Guenther	5th
Judy Riek	6th
Gus Nelson	7th
Jean Ehmsen	DNF
Peggy Guenther	DNF
Doug Guenther	DNF
Bob Zagar	DNF
R. Benlemous	DNF
Ben Lemons	DNF


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LAPOLE

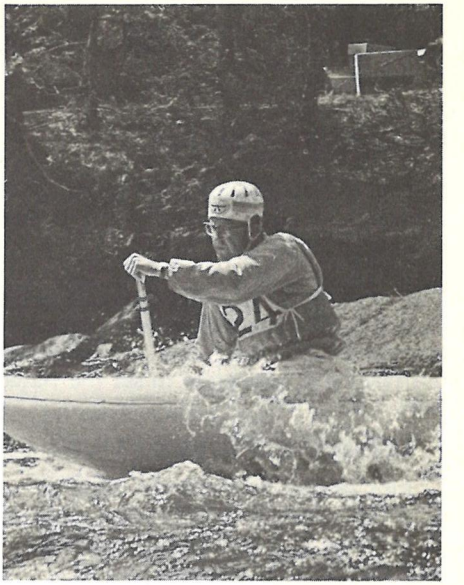


CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SLALOM:

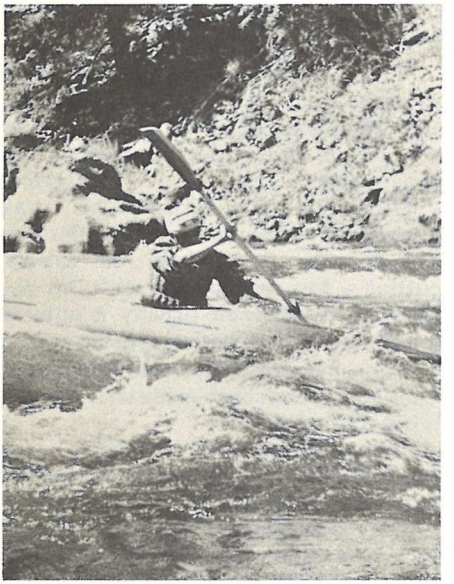
- Voyagers Motor Inn
- Travel Fore Seasons
- Meuller Boat Rental
- Northern States Power



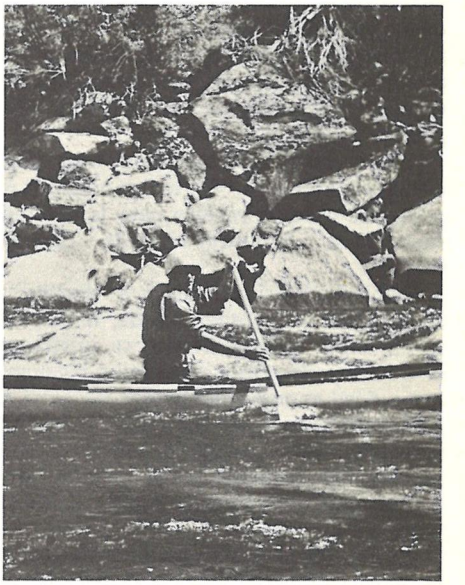
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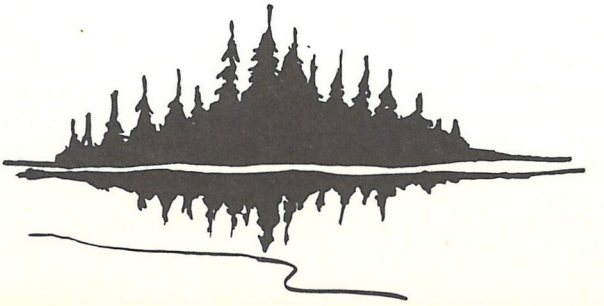
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St. Croix Slalom

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL CLASSES: K-1 men, K-1 women, C-1 men, C-2 men, C-2 mixed doubles, K-1 team, C-2 team.

THE COURSE: A short rapid of good class 2 water (class 3 in higher water). Operators of the dam immediately upstream will cooperate to set the water level.

SLALOM COURSE RULES

Life jackets and helmets must be worn during competition *and practice,* and the assigned numbers should be visibly displayed.

The slalom course consists of "gates" made by two hanging striped poles, one red and one green. The colors indicate the direction from which the gate must be entered; the green pole must be on the paddler's right.

Gates must be negotiated bow first unless marked with "R" which means it is a reverse gate. A reverse gate is entered stern first, in other words, backed through.

A blacked striped gate is a "paddler's choice gate," in other words, it can be taken either bow or stern first, upstream or downstream. Once a direction is taken, it is judged as any other gate.

Slalom events are scored on time and penalties. The paddler's score is the number of seconds spent running the course plus his penalty points. Lowest score wins.

Contestants must negotiate the gates in numerical order and make a reasonable attempt at all gates, but when completely missing a gate and contacting the next numbered gate, he must continue on. If he misses two or more gates and touches the third, or a number beyond, he may go back and attempt those following the last gate negotiated.

Slalom gates are judged only during contact with a gate. Contact begins when the bow, or any part of the boat, crosses the imaginary line between the gate poles, and ends when the craft exits beyond it. This is called "inside touch." "Outside touch" occurs when the boat or contestant touches a pole from the outside.

0 Clean pass — poles not touching boat, person or paddle — perfect 0 points

10 Inside touch 1 — one pole touching boat, person or paddle one or more times 10 points

20 Inside touch 2 — both poles touching boat, person or paddle one or more times 20 points

50 Outside touch — touching outside of pole with boat, failing to get body of each paddler between poles, going through a forward gate in reverse or through a reverse gate forwards; going through upside down; rolling over while in a gate. A 50-point penalty is noted if roll occurs while negotiating gate. 50 points

100 Complete miss — touching with paddle only does not reduce this penalty. 100 points

Upsetting and leaving his craft disqualifies contestant, but if he tips over and recovers by Eskimo roll without putting a foot outside the craft, he may continue. A 50-point penalty is noted if roll occurs while negotiating gate.

Touching pole with paddle before or after contact has been made with the gate is not a penalty.

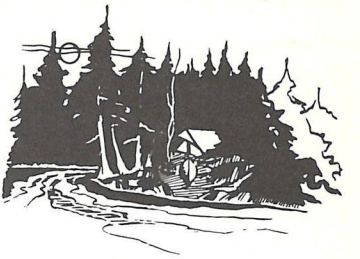
In case of a tie, the contestant having the best alternate run score (when two runs were made) will be the winner.

Only one attempt should be made at each gate. Contestant will be judged on first contact, so he should proceed on.

Reversing the motion of the boat before the entire craft has cleared a gate also draws 50 penalty points.

If a boat passes under a pole, this is OK, and no penalty is given. A boat can even go through broadside with no penalties if it goes under both poles; however, if it touches one pole while broadside, it should receive 50 points for an outside touch.

INCIDENT AT MOOSE LAKE LANDING, BWCA



It had been a long drive from the Twin Cities in the hot weather to reach the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Yet now we were almost ready. The canoe was in the water, loaded and straining at its tethered bow line. A forest service man had checked our BWCA permit while we loaded and now he was emptying the trash barrels and tidying up the public landing. We had only the car now to place in the landing parking lot.

As I climbed in the car a thought occurred to me. "Hey, let's make a quick trip to the outfitter over the hill and have a nice cold can of pop."

"It'll be all right. We'll be right back and nobody will bother it here." And as further assurance I noted, "Besides that forest service man knows it's our gear and would notice any others around it."

As the car started up the landing a thought came, and I braked and yelled out to the forest service guy, "We're going over to the outfitter's. Would you like a can of Coke? I'm buying and we'll be back in about fifteen minutes."

"Okay," came the response.

Now the car was parked, our thirst quenched, and the trip before us. I approached the forest service man and handed him the coke. He beamed and said, "I want to thank you. I've worked around here for years, and you're the first guy that ever treated me." I was startled. Here was a man who helped maintain something important to me, the BWCA, and apparently received little personal feedback for the services he performed. The next time you see a forest service man stop and reflect on my experience.

Ham Kurtz

Wanted!!

People to help at the St. Croix Slalom, September 19 - 20, 1970, as gate judges, timers, and scorekeepers. We'll appreciate any help we can get. Write: Denny Withers, 2806 Xerxes Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416, or call 920-2887.

Photos for HUT! Considered Prizeworthy

HUT! is interested in obtaining high quality black and white photos of canoeing and canoe related subjects for its permanent file. Starting with the November issue of HUT! (the new fiscal year), we will once again pay $1 (to cover sender's cost) for each photo printed or kept for possible future use. We need to build up a permanent file, so we prefer to keep suitable photos. If a photo must be returned, please specify on photo or on an attached note; please do not send photos which must be returned within 60 days. All submissions must include photographer's name, address, date sent, and explanation of what's taking place including identification of persons in photo, location and date, if pertinent. We suggest: prints 3 x 5 to 5 x 7 for body of magazine, prints 8 x 10 for cover. Each photo printed (except formal "mug" shots) will automatically be considered an entry for Best Photo of the Year. More about this next issue.

HUT! is also interested in receiving "rough" illustrations or printed illustrations that would be used as ideas for our artists' permanent artwork file. Please send to Larry Johns, 2936 North Simpson, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.





Storyteller Trophy to be Awarded--To You?

Come, come all ye campfire storytellers. Come all ye mighty canoeists and adventurers. Come take up your quills, dip them in ink, and spin us a tale that'll make our eyes glow with more than firelight.

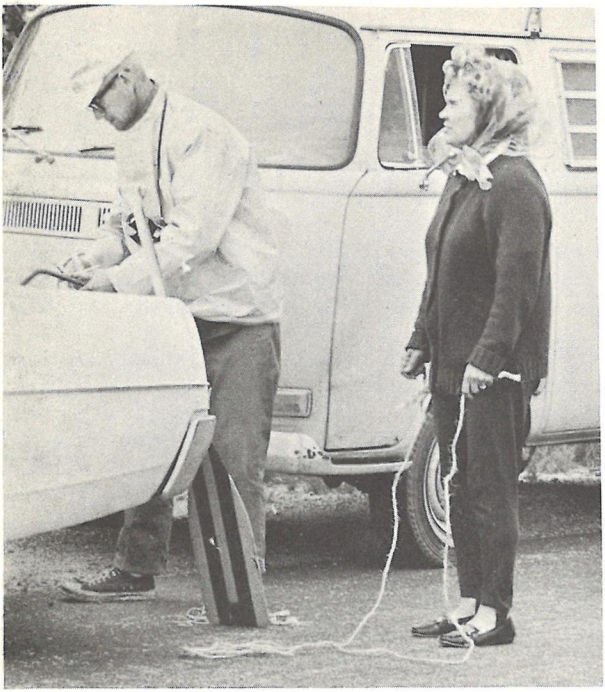
HUT! Magazine hereby announces its annual (or biannual, depending on response) Storyteller's Contest. Category: either First Person Experience or Fiction. Prize: traveling trophy, with winner's name engraved, and certificates awarded to other top winners; winning stories published in HUT! Topic: canoeing or canoe related subjects. Length: approximately 1500-3000 words; length will not influence judges' decisions as to quality (longer stories would be published serially). Date due: postmarked no later than November 15, 1970. Manuscript specifications: preferably typewritten (double-spaced) or clear longhand. Number all story pages (not cover page), and add The End or 30 after last line of story. On a separate sheet of paper (cover page) list title, category (experience or fiction), name, address, telephone, approximate number of words, number of pages, and date (November, 1970); do not include this information on any of the story pages so that the stories may be judged impartially.

Stories will be judged mainly for suitability of topic, interesting content, and unity. Any winning manuscript will be lightly edited before publication for minor grammatical or typographical errors, so don't be timid for this reason. However, be reasonably careful to make sure your story is understandable. Impartial highly qualified judges will be chosen, and their decisions will be final. Manuscripts will be returned only if author includes stamped self-addressed envelope with manuscript.

Send manuscript to: HUT! Storyteller's Contest, Jean-Marie Fisher, 924 Excelsior Avenue East, Hopkins, Minnesota 55343.

Contestants must be members of the MCA. Applicants for new or renewed membership will be considered as contestants if membership fee is sent with manuscript (for details of membership see inside back cover).

NEXT ISSUE
Rafting Wild Rivers — Thrilling New Old Sport
New series on camping equipment
Also: Letters to the Editor — Let's hear from you on controversial canoeing and conservation subjects. We want your opinions.



Passing the Paddle

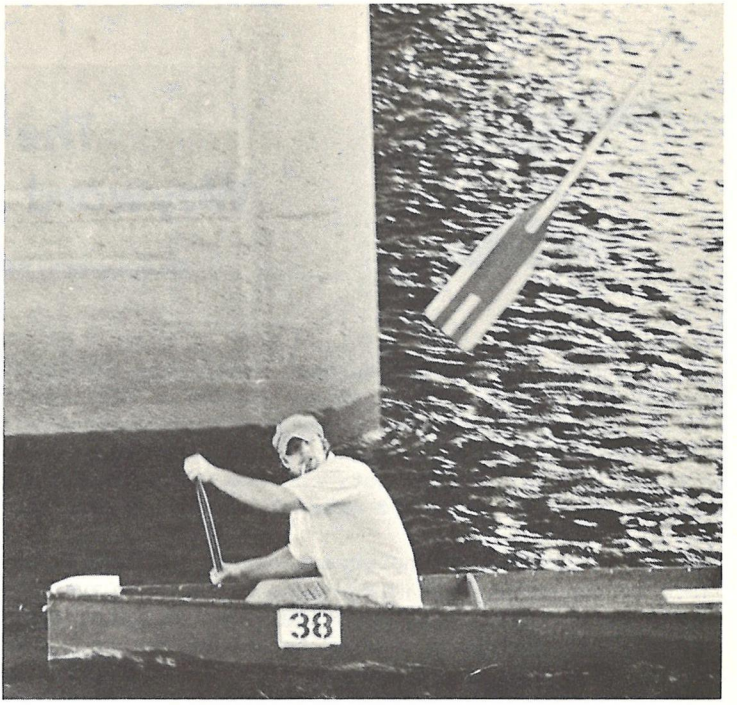
During the Marinette Race on the fourth of July, Kenn Ketter requested a spare paddle from his bank runners. The bank runners' mission is to fill the racers' request quickly without requiring the racers to divert their course excessively. Pictured here is the episode of passing the paddle:

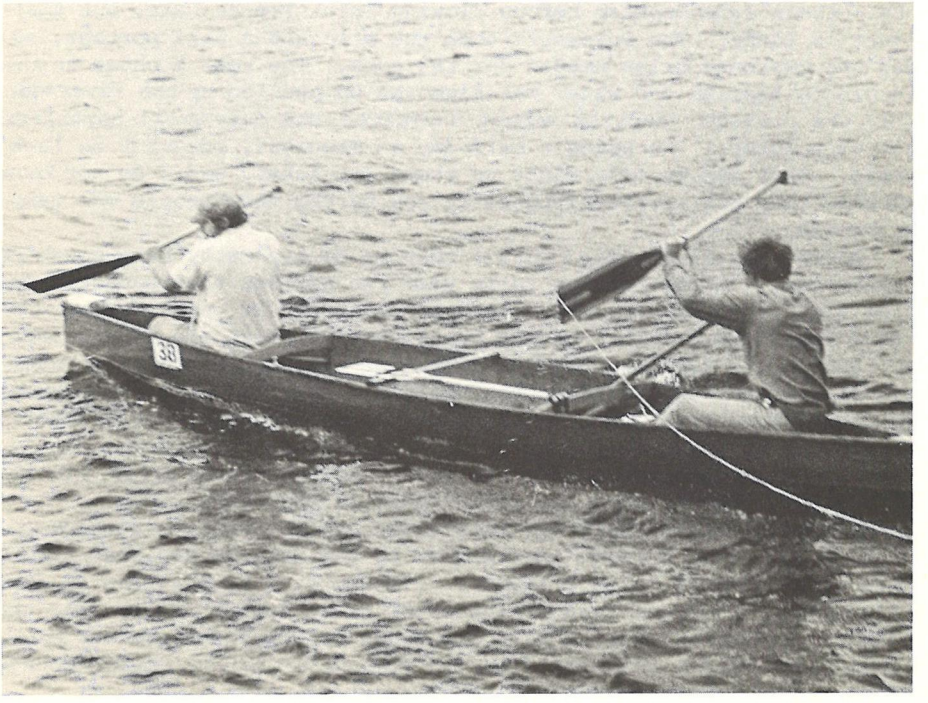
First photo: Gene Jensen and Betty Ketter prepare to lower the paddle with rope from a bridge over the Menominee River.

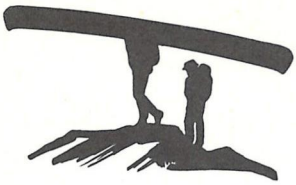
Second photo: A strong wind whips the paddle and raises it too high above the water. Lawrence Peterson raises his head for the first time in three races to watch the flying paddle.

Third photo: Kenn Ketter had to knock the paddle down with his own and was able to pick it out of the water.

Though everything worked out, it was reminiscent of a race a long time ago when a racer requested food (and no one can be more demanding than a hungry racer). The bank runner dutifully secured a bag of hamburgers and used the same method to lower the provisions. The problem is to determine how close the lowered item is to the water, and the easiest solution is to lower it until it touches the water and then raise it a couple of feet. As the famished racers approached the suspended bag, the water-soaked paper weakened and deposited the hamburgers in the Mississippi River just a few feet ahead of the canoe!


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The Wayward Wind

4th in a series by Bill Fisher

"The grass is greener on the other side of the hill." In the Quetico this reads, "The fish are bigger in the little lake over the hill." But anyone who has spent much time working his way with compass and fishing pole to those little lakes can tell you it isn't necessarily so. But if not, one has satisfied his curiosity, and may have added a place of special beauty to his knowledge of the country.

French Lake in the northeast corner was the first developed entrance to the park, with major work on the Dawson Trail Campgrounds beginning in 1957. At that time I was tripping from Camp Owakonze on Baril Lake, a day's journey to the northeast. I wanted a five or six day trip that would provide a couple of layover days, and decided to explore Baptism and Trousers Lakes, south of French.

The French River flows from Winigoostigan and then is joined by the stream from Baptism before flowing into French Lake, but that river is rocky. The voyageurs took the mile and a half portage, as did the Owakonze trips headed for the park. The year I chose to investigate Baptism the water was high and we paddled up the river with only one portage. Baptism seemed unvisited, but only small northerns hit our lures. We spent a half-day on Trousers, but had no luck there. That was my only visit to these two lakes, and I do not know whether they are visited frequently now by the many people who camp at French.

Another guide at Owaknoze told me to try Cutty Lake south of Chatterton. At Chatterton Falls were two parties that had come up from Ely, and they were interested to hear that it was a shorter distance down from French. On the steep Baird portage one of the pack men mistakenly took the paddles (which we use to portage the canoe rather than a yoke) and the canoe portager had only the canoe tump to assist him, true grit. We spend two hours searching for the Metacryst trail, but that was my error -- I did not check both little bays before plunging off into the woods, and of course after a futile hunt in the one we found the clear trail in the other.

The campsite on Cutty was well used, and the walleye fishing explained why. Off a rock ledge midway in the lake we had that thrill that comes once or twice a summer. "Back up, I have a snag -- hey, it's moving!" After twenty minutes of great fun we had tired the northern enough to clamp a pair of pliars on his lower jaw and hoist him in, the yellow flatfish flopping free as we did so. Thirty pounds, give or take a couple (I have a photo).

Leaving Cutty we swung west through Cub, over to Fred, noting some good campsites and again scoring with walleyes as we entered Sturgeon. We saw no other parties and I would imagine this route is one of the lesser traveled, altho that was my only experience with it.

To the east of Chatterton we tried Alice Lake. There was the remains of the logging camp and fishing was fair. Outward Bound groups have used this lake for their three-day solos.

One summer we took a short circle south of Pickerel, traveling from north bay of Sturgeon into Elizabeth through Holiday. This secluded little lake was attractive and I returned to it twice, hoping to find good fishing. It was deep enough for lake trout but I could not raise any, nor walleyes either.

Creeks are often the key to reaching offbeat lakes, as any glance at a map will show. That thin blue line may mean a meandering little stream through low country, usually navigable unless choked with logs. Or it could indicate a rocky, chuckling waterrun through heavy woods, with little chance of portage. Topographic maps are helpful in indicating the nature of the terrain, and aerial photographs provide an even better picture. A new beaver dam, however, could open up a creek, or a broken dam create the need for a portage.

My brother and I spent a day working up the creek to Draper Lake, and finally made a rough portage along the south side. The lake was attractive with a fine campsite on the point between the big islands. On another visit to this lake I found the creek navigable. Friends who visited the lake last year said the portage crews had just worked on the trail. Here again was water deep enough for lake trout, but small northerns were all we caught.

Guides of course know which lakes are accessible and which have fish. But any traveler who allows time for layover days can make these discoveries for himself. From a central campsite one can explore. If there is no creek he picks the shortest point between the lakes, and locates a cut in the land near that spot. Frequently there will be a creek or old streambed not shown on the map. Animals travel between the lakes, and with little work a moose trail becomes a portage. The first trip into such a lake one usually fishes and checks for possible campsites. If he has good fortune in both, he probably does not mark the portage clearly, and only others who have desire for the same experience will locate his trail and share the pleasure in a special lake.

In time what was once a side lake may become part of an established route. Twelve years ago I spent a day exploring the creek from Oriana to Hamburg, and my first look at the latter with its high, rocky north shore aroused my interest. But was not until three years ago that I entered Hamburg from the east, and dove from those cliffs. A few parties now travel through the lake en route to Quetico Lake, although the Jesse Lake route is faster. In this area I have marked the little lake to the south of Jesse for investigation, and also Cain and Lakin. Undoubtedly some HUT! readers have visited one of these or spoken with other adventurers who have.

As increasing numbers travel the Quetico Park waters, those who seek seclusion for a few days and a special communion with the wilderness will depend upon these greener spots just over the hill.

Questionnaires - Please

Please take a minute NOW to complete the Interest Questionnaire (blue sheet) mailed in the August HUT! and return it. We want each member to return the questionnaire whether or not he is able to volunteer service; there is other information on it that we need for our files. To make it simple for yourself, we suggest you simply tape or staple the edge shut, address the outside like an envelope, stamp it, and send it off. Thanks.

Camp Cookery

PORTAGE SMOKED FISH* (4 hours)

Portage (pronounced por-tazh´) Smoked Fish is obtained by slowly cooking whole fish in wet newspaper.

1 c. salt
Medium-size clean heavy brown paper bag
Thick section of Sunday newspaper (at least 50 pages)

Put salt in plastic bag and tie shut; store in mess kit. Put paper bag and newspaper against one side of food pack.

At camp

3-5 lb. small fresh-water fish (trout, salmon, smelt, walleyed pike
Pot of water

Scale and clean fish. Do not remove heads. Rub salt into cavities and then into skins. Lay fish between clean green leaves or foil in cool spot (out of the sun) and let salt work for 1-2 hours. (An hour is enough if it's a warm day.) In the meantime, build a hot fire. Let it burn down to a nice bed of glowing coals. Thoroughly soak paper bag and newspaper. Put fish in bag, roll tightly in newspaper, and put into bed of coals. Cook for 2 hours. Newspaper can smolder, but don't let it flame up. Prolong smoldering by wetting down newspaper occasionally – don't put the fire out in the process. Add just enough wood to keep the same amount of glowing coals. If you've handled things with expertise, in two hours the newspaper should be burned away, leaving the paper bag containing smoked (cooked) fish. Eat with fingers. Save one whole fish and remaining heads and skins for Fishhead Stew.

*from A FINE KETTLE OF FISH And Other Things: The Wilderness Chef's Handbook, © 1970 Jean-Marie Fisher



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print in ink or type. Make application for membership on official MCA forms only. Fill in all spaces each time you renew. If you do not want to use the back page of your Hut, join at a monthly meeting. Forms will be available there.

MEMBERSHIPS

1) Regular Members —$5.00 annual dues; full club benefits.
2) Junior Members —$3.00 annual dues; full benefits except for voting rights. Not yet age 19.
3) Associate Members —$2.50 annual dues; receives the newsletter. May purchase separately, items in the membership kit.
4) Life Members —Full benefits for life.

Your membership card will be your proof of payment. Memberships are non-transferable. Make checks payable to the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.

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Address correction requested:

The Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote all aspects of canoeing.

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