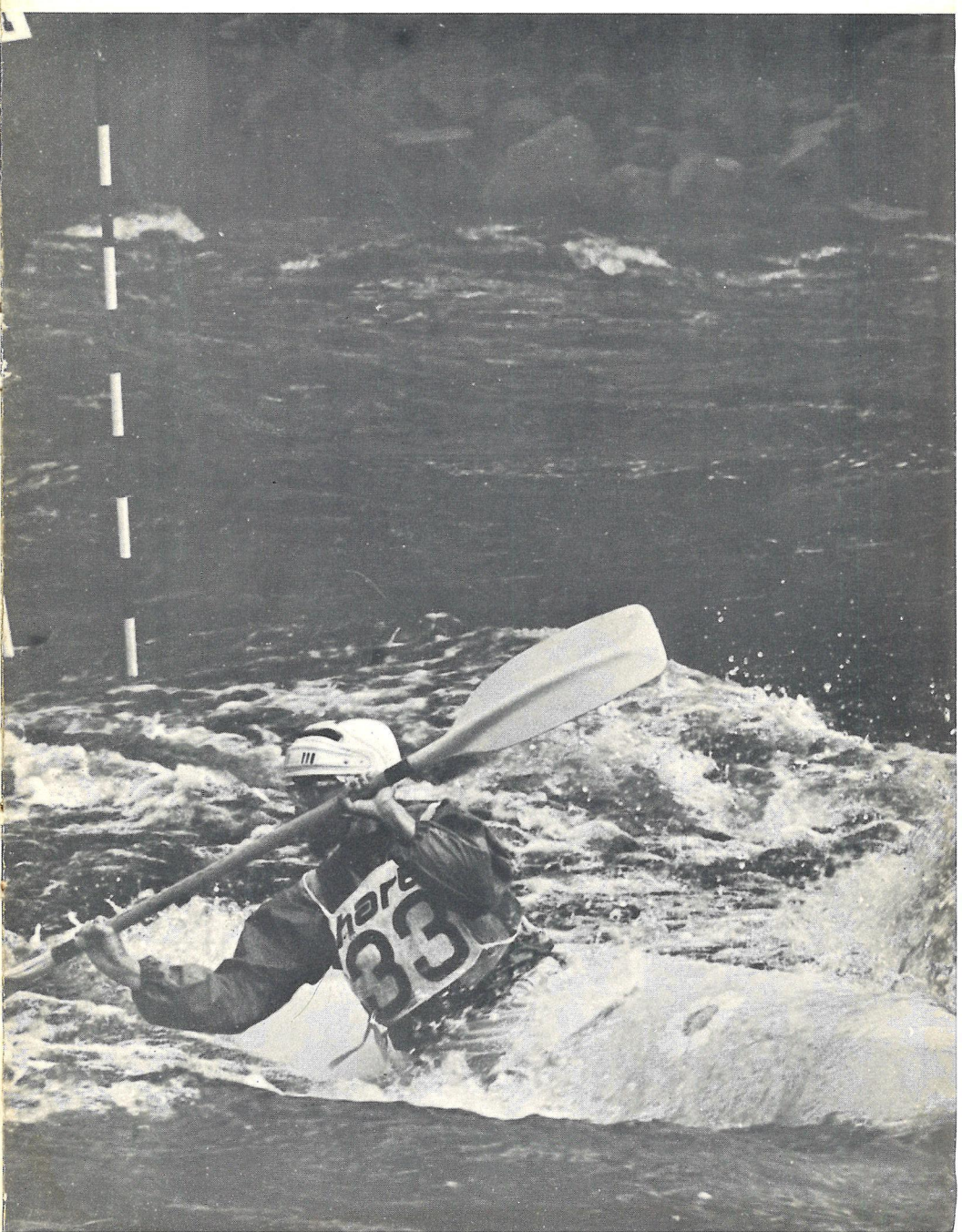
HUT!

March 1969
Volume 3 No. 5



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

March 19	Activities Meeting - Whitewater, U of M
March 26	Board Meeting - Conrad
April 16	Activities Meeting - Canoeing Film, Richfield State Bank
April 23	Board Meeting - Ketter
May 21	Activities Meeting - Movie: Waters of the St. Croix, Camping demonstrations and Expo
May 28	Board Meeting - Button
June 18	Activities Meeting - Paddling Style and Technique from Cruising to Racing and Whitewater
June 25	Board Meeting - Ketter

RACES

March 29 30	Western Division Slalom Championships, St. Francis River, Fredricktown, Mo.
May 3	Kettle River Whitewater Race and Slalom
May 17 18	Wolf River Downriver Races, Wolf River, Wis.
June 7	Grand Rapids, Minnesota State Championship Canoe Race - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM PREVIOUS LISTING

CRUISES AND RECREATION

April 13	Rice Creek Cruise, Abner Jones and J. Robidoux, Leaders. 784-5302 or 784-7086.
May 4	Lower Kettle River Cruise, Whitewater
May 30 31 June 1	Memorial Day Wilderness Canoe Country Cruise Superior Nat'l Forest. Three day trip-cruise. Bob O'Hara, leader 561-3007.
June 27	Midnight Mississippi River Cruise, Ketter, leader 561-2208.
June 28 29	Crow Wing River Cruise, Bill Marcouiller, leader 789-0074. An excellent family trip.

ALL MCA ACTIVITIES REQUIRE A LIFE PRESERVER FOR EACH PERSON

For full information. call the trip leader in advance.

COVER : *Fall Whitewater Races, Taylor's Falls*

Photo by: Roy D. Conradi

HUT!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

March, 1969
Volume 3, Number 5

MARCH MEETING

Indoor whitewater boating spectacular! See the MCA whitewater paddlers in an action filled evening full of entertainment and information. We guarantee you will see stunts you never thought possible - with or without a paddle!

Place: Varsity Pool, Cooke Hall at the University of Minnesota (at the open end of the football stadium)

Time: 7:30 pm

Date: Wednesday, March 19

Parking: Large lot at the corner of Oak and Washington (enter off Oak St. - probably free). Several large lots off 4th St. SE. Remember University Ave. and 4th St. SE are now one way streets through the University.

We will again have a limited number of Minnesota River Trails books at the meeting at a discount to dues paid MCA members.

FEBRUARY MEETING

About 275 canoe building enthusiasts patted, thumped, admired, and examined canoes being displayed at the February meeting in Fridley. Bob Haug, Al Button, and Al Buchholz briefly described the various building techniques currently being used by the MCA and 3M canoe clubs. Wood strip, molded fiberglass, and even a birch bark canoe were displayed.

The club gained about 50 new members at the meeting and sold out its stock of 100 Minnesota River Trails books. Don't worry they'll get more for the March meeting.

RIVER CRUISE

RICE CREEK

by Ab Jones

It is hardly 40 miles long -- seldom over 30 feet wide, never dry and rarely floods. The early fur traders called it the Ottonwey River. It parallels the old Madeline Island Route -- and old trail from St. Anthony Falls to Lake Superior -- and may very well have been used in a short cut to the Mississippi from the St Croix by the Voyageurs. For the Indian, it meant wild rice; for the white man, a sealth of beaver pelts. Many canoes have scraped its sand bars and rocks.

The head waters are in Clear Lake, north of U.S. 8 and south of Forest Lake. From here it flows a slow, wandering course through numerous broad areas of water water, hardly a river at all -- more like the string in a necklace of lakes, ponds, and marshes -- generally in a southwesterly direction to the Twin City Arsenal. Then to Long Lake, entering in the north end and leaving immediately to become a river again.

After Long Lake the current quickens and becomes audible, winding, twisting by wooded areas, high banks and rocks. Then it slows and enters Locke Lake, passes through, exits in a froth and goes tumbling down, nudges a dent into the Mississippi and disappears.

Rice Creek is usually canoeable in the spring and early summer, except for a restricted area in the Arsenal. You will experience the peace and solitude of the marshes and the wild life they support to some fast water that will require competent paddling.

Put in at U.S. 10 (north of New Brighton) and before you are settled in the seat you are in a different

world, blue herons, squirrels, ducks, maybe a cardinal or a deer and until a few years ago, beaver. Sharp eyes will still see some old beaver hewn stumps. Look out! There's a tree fallen across the creek. This is the first of a number of obstacles that will require some fast decisions. It is a good idea to plan some of them in advance. The creek winds, turns and doubles back in this area and seldom can you see over 50 feet ahead. Sometimes, in the length of the canoe, you must decide and do one of five things -- go right, go left, go over, go under or back down --stop and negotiate a decision. If no decision is reached, grab two hands full of brush and hang on.

After about a mile and a half, we come to Long Lake, the outlet is to the west, about 80 rods. Here, the velocity perks up considerably. In one place a 3-foot drop! This is not spectacular in white water, but in Rice Creek, you must tackle it with your head between your knees -- there is a fallen tree to go under at this point. You will also encounter your first rocks and they will be more numerous as we sroceed. It's a different creek now. The banks are higher, more rocks, trees, sharp turns. You'll wish the canoe was hinged in the center.

From Long Lake to Locke Park is about 2 3/4 miles. The outlet at Long Lake can be a decision point. If the rocks are visible here and you scrape bottom, don't proceed. If you clear here in good shape, you will have no trouble from low water until Locke Park. Unless the water is very high, it is not advisable to continue beyond the park. There are places where it is very rocky and it takes a good flow of water to get through this part of the creek.

It is not difficult to paddle back up stream from Long Lake to put-in place at highway 10. This makes a nice little trip in the evening, float down, then paddle

back up to the car. No cars to shuttle, nobody to go back and pick up.

Lake Peletier is another enjoyable paddle in the evening if you like marshes. Put in at Centerville and paddle north along the west shore then around the island in the north end of the lake. You will see many kinds of birds and a lot of blue herons.

The mouth of Rice Creek has been a gathering place since long before the white man came. There was a Sioux Indian Mission here until 1848. It was called Manomin (rice). Here was the first claim filed north of Pigs Eye on the Mississippi. A John Banfill filed a claim here in 1847. The base and some of the footings of his cabin are there yet. Today, this is a nice woodsy area maintained by Anoka County as a park. It has picnic tables and the fishing is good so, if nothing else, take a picnic lunch and go down and breathe a little history.



Cartoon courtesy of Jerry Wagner, Michigan

MCA canoe cruise

The Rice Creek cruise is being tentatively planned for Sunday, April 13. Get your name on the calling list so you can be notified of any date changes. Do this by calling Abner Jones, 784-5302 or Jan Robidoux 784-7086. If the water is high, this trip can be hazardous, so wear your life jackets. This trip is not recommended for beginners.

The cruise is planned to leave from U.S. 10 and Ramsey County H at 1:00 pm. You may put in later at the north end of Long Lake at 2:00 pm or Silver Lake Rd. at 2:30 pm.

The MCA will have hot coffee and hot dogs ready for you when you arrive at Locke Park (about 4:30 pm). If you can't find anyone to shuttle with there will be transportation from the park back to your car.

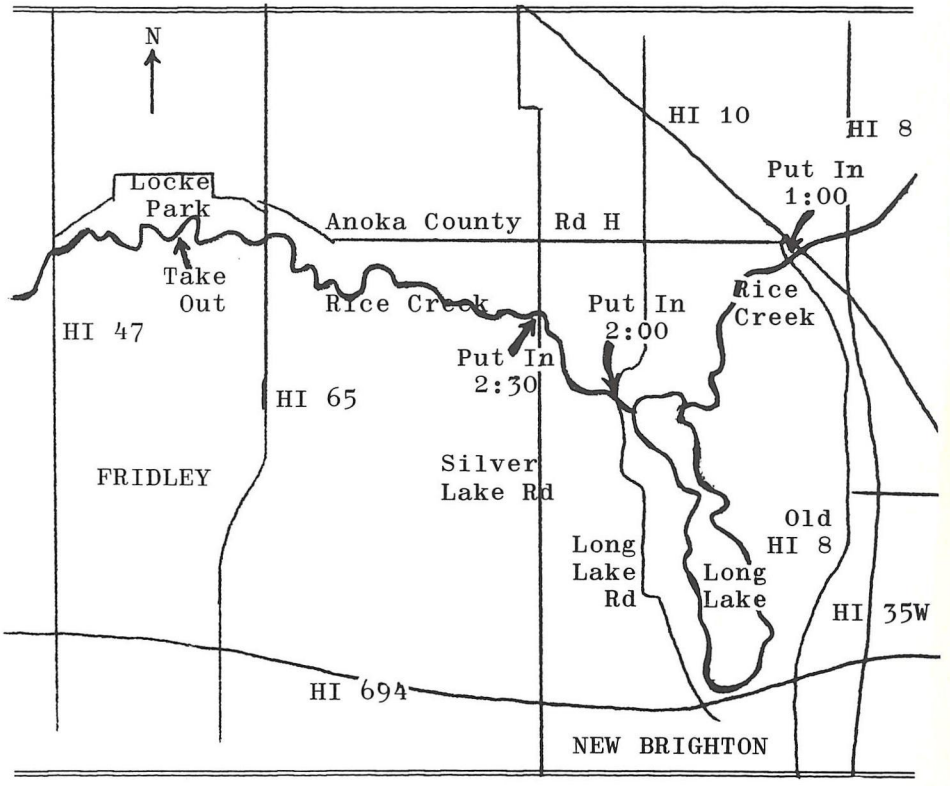
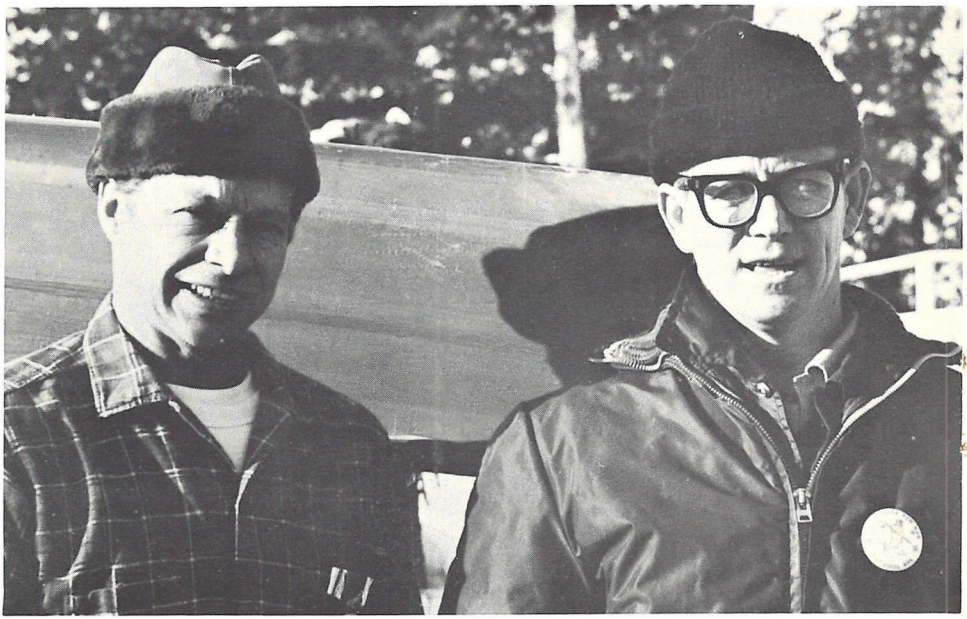




Photo by: Betty Ketter



Buzz Peterson and Gene Jensen after winning the Grand Rapids Polor Bear Race

RACING NEWS

Wolf River Downriver Race May 17 - 18

For full details write:
Herb Buettner, White Lake, Wis. 54491

RACE RESULTS

GRAND RAPIDS POLAR BEAR RACE
February 8

The race started at the Cohasset bridge and went three miles downstream and back. The canoes used were all 18 ft 3/27 in.

1.	Irwin C. Peterson - Gene Jensen	48:27
2.	Walt Houtari - Gus Carlson	49:11
3.	Gary Neddermeyer - Joel Weinhold	50:27
4.	Keith Canny - Ken Ketter	51:59
5.	Robin Baker - Tom Chapin	52:03
6.	*Joe Conrad - *Al Button	52:08
7.	Paul McCarthy - Ed Koehler	54:39
8.	John Ritz - Jim Ritz	54:57
9.	*Doug Skinner - *Dave Decker	1:15:15

* Denotes amateur

THE ORACLE

Q. Assuming high water, how would the following rivers be ranked in terms of whitewater challenge: Kettle (Banning State Park), Snake (upper and lower falls area), Bois Brule (north of US 2), South Fork Flambeau, Wolf, and Peshtigo?

A. Consider "normal springwater" we would rate the rivers this way, beginning with the EASIEST!

1. South Fork Flambeau - portage Little Falls
2. Bois Brule
3. Snake
4. Upper stretches of Wolf
5. Lower Wolf and Kettle near Banning
6. Peshtigo

All these rivers are tough, so start whitewater on the St. Croix near Grantsburg or the Lower Kettle and Snake that empty into the St. Croix.

T.O.

Q. I need a sure-fire method of keeping my camera dry.

A. An army ammo box makes an ideal waterproof camera case. The case may be lined with foam to further protect your camera. You can also use it for stowing miscellaneous items such as matches, bug repellant, first aid items, watch, billfold, etc.

T.O.

Q. What makes the best bail can?

A. A gallon plastic jug with a large handle makes a great bail can after its bottom is cut off.

T.O.

BUILDING NEWS

Notice

All fiberglass and resin sales are made through John Musil, Phone 336-3588.

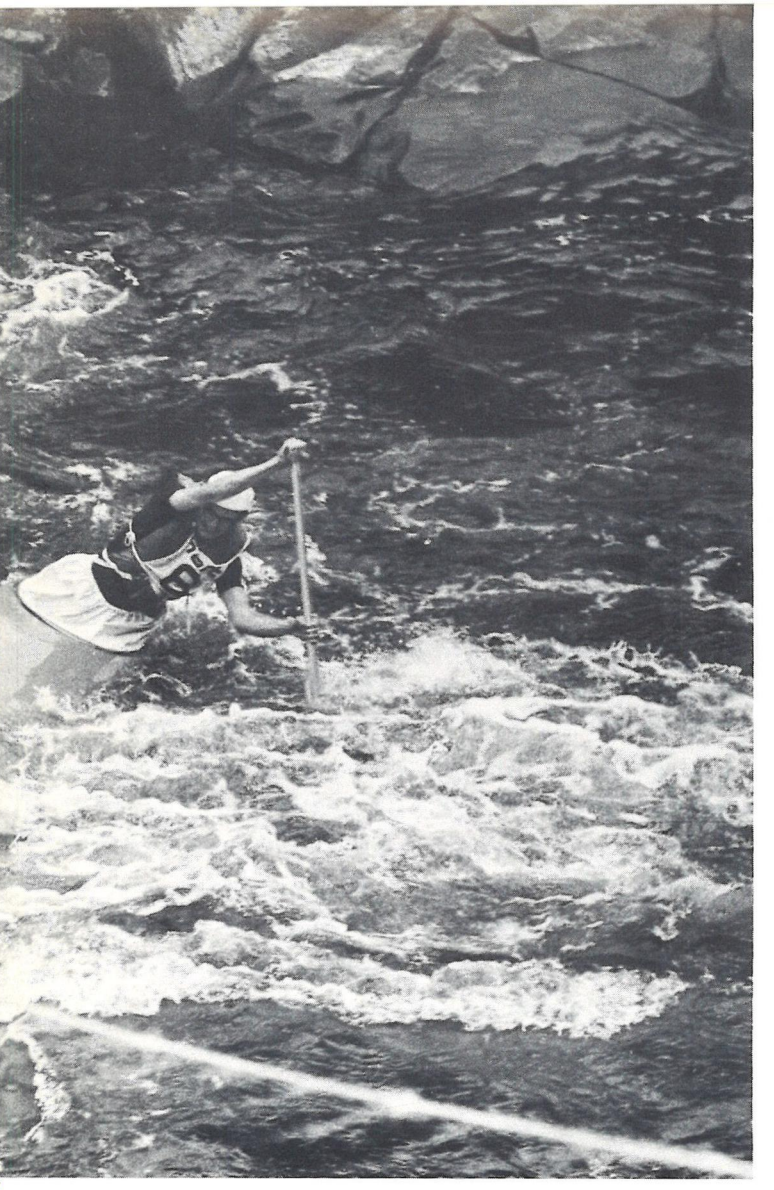
All epoxy resin only, through Bob Haug. Phone 729-0177.

Please be considerate and call them before running over to get supplies.



A C-2 tries to navagate a gate in the MCA sponsored Whitewater races, T

ST. CROIX



Taylor's Falls. *Photo by: Roy D. Conradi*

SLALOM

CRUISING

END OF THE SEASON

by Allan Button

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open--canoe?

Looking out through the snow it seemed more like a sleigh ride than a canoe trip. After a busy season of competition, building and moving to a new house I wasn't going to let a little snow deter me from taking one cruise, just for fun, before winter closed up the waterways. One thing or another delayed the cruise until long after the leaves had fallen. The deer hunting season was here and starting from St. Paul at 4:30 am to "beat the traffic" and get an early start put me right in the middle of the rush hour of hunters going up for one last try on the last day of the season. The further north we went the more it snowed and finally, as the last deer hunters were left behind and I crossed over the St. Croix at Danbury there were five inches of the slippery stuff on a deserted highway. Leaving the bicycle at the bridge for the return trip, I slipped and skidded another twenty seven miles east on Highway 77 to the bridge over the Namekagon. By daybreak the canoe was loaded with two changes of clothes in waterproof plastic bags, a hearty lunch of stew, extra paddles, matches, and a first aid kit. These were put in the bow, since I hadn't been able to find anyone else crazy enough to come along on this trip.

The river and the scenery were beautiful, like a photograph of a rural scene taken with black and white film. The smallest branches had a one-inch frosting of soft snow and even the many coniferous trees in the area which would usually add color to the scene were completely buried under impossible looking mountains of white. The river and tree trunks provided a stark

black contrast to the snow. The whole forest was almost frighteningly still.

A lone bald eagle observed my approach as long as he dared, then soared off to a safer tree, still in sight but farther down the river. The snow continued to fall, first in big soft flakes and then more slowly in small needly crystals; finally as the weather warmed, it turned to a misty rain, with a little hail to relieve the silence now and then.

The canoe knifed along at a brisk pace through this peaceful scene for two reasons. Even with rubber gloves, the only way to keep hands warm in that weather is to exercise them vigorously. They got quite cold if I relaxed too much while enjoying the scenery. Too, the daylight would last only nine hours; with a one-hour stop for lungh that left some forty miles to be covered in the remaining eight hours. The distance was covered by dark -- barely.

BUILDING

USED FORMS AND STRONGBACKS WANTED

Now that you've finished your canoe, what are you going to do with those forms and the strongback? Why not make them available to the MCA for use by other members? Karl Ketter has volunteered to store forms and strongbacks and act as a clearing house. He gets calls every week from members wanting to borrow this kind of equipment. Call Karl at 561-2208.

3M CANOE MOLD RENTAL FEES

The 3M Canoe Club asks the following rental fees for use of their molds:

$15.00 3M members
$25.00 MCA members
$35.00 Non-members

Call Al Buchholz 771-1551.

WHITE WATER

by Joe Conrad

ST. FRANCIS RIVER, MISSOURI
WHITEWATER SLALOM RACES

On March 29 and 30, Fredricktown, Missouri, will host the Midwest Slalom Championships on the St. Francis river. Several MCA paddlers will be taking the long trip to defend their titles. Last year at the St. Francis, the MCA took two firsts and two seconds out of five classes. Call Allan Button,459-3201, if you are interested.

SAFETY IN WHITEWATER

or

"How to Run Rapids and Live to Tell About It"

by Joe Conrad

Early spring! High water! "Let's run those rapids now, the waves will really be great!" you say. So you jump into your canoe with your buddy and down you go - maybe too far down. Maybe you didn't thing about how cold the water would be, or how out of shape you are, or that a water filled canoe weighs 2000 pounds. Maybe you left that extra life-jacket at home, and completely ignored the fact that you haven't really run <u>any</u> high, flood-filled stream before. To avert disaster try the following rules.

1. <u>Personal</u>

Be in shape. Know your ability. Work up to the big rivers by starting on the easier ones. Know your partners and their abilities and judgment.

2. <u>Equipment</u>

Avoid battling a swamped canoe and frigid water.

a) Put extra flotation in the canoe. Open canoes can be filled with a tractor-tire tube stuffed under the thwarts. You may want to attach a partial spray deck.

b) WEAR A LIFEJACKET
Two that provide more freedom of motion are:
"Sans-Souci" $15 56301
Stearns Manufacturing Co., St. Cloud, Mn.

and "Flotherchoc" $23.50
Sports and Cycles
3181 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22201.

Both come in sizes.

c) In cold water (until June 1 in these parts), wear a wet suit and neoprene booties. Avoid heavy leather or rubber boots.

d) Carry a waterproofed change of warm clothes.

e) Never impede your exit from the canoe in case of upset.

3. The River

Know what you are attempting. Learn what hazards the particular river may hold. Never rely solely on hearsay - especially if the approaching rapids are unviewable from beginning to end from the water. Get on shore and scout the river. Learn about moving water and potential river hazards such as fallen trees, underwater rocks, strong eddies, and side currents, undertows at dams, and falls.

4. In Case of Upset

Hang onto the boat by thwart, gunwale or grab-loop. Stay on the upstream end to avoid being pinned. Keep your feet up near the surface and face downstream to fend off rocks. In general, don't leave the boat until you are touching bottom and know you can wade to shore.

5. Running Rapids

Never run rapids solo. Travel with an experienced leader and respect his judgment. Don't be ashamed to portage - the Voyageurs knew that!

CANOE TRAILS BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

MINNESOTA: River Trails Booklet will be on sale at the March MCA Activities Meeting.

WISCONSIN: North Central Canoe Trails, featuring the Chippewa, Flambeau, Couderay, Jump, Turtle, Manitowish, Yellow, Thornapple, Deertail, and Main rivers. Difficulty of rapids rated.

Cost: $2.50

Write: Rusk County Information Center
P.O. Box 9
Ladysmith, Wis. 54848

Wolf River Fans: The Spring '68 issue of "Wisconsin Tales and Trails" contains three articles on the river. One article with photos of the entire river, a second article of interest for the downriver and slalom racers, and a third article describing the beauty spots of Menominee County. Back issues are available for $1.50.

Write: Wisconsin Tales and Trails
3310 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

WHAT'S *Ahead!*

ED. NOTE: Mr. Abrams account is printed to inform our readers of the dangers and hazards of traveling unknown waters and the dangers of sudden high waters from rains or spring runoff. It is hoped that this account provides a warning for us and will be regarded as a very lucky exception rather than the rule of good canoemanship.

HARSH LESSON

by Larry F. Abrams

The Brunet River in northern Wisconsin is a relatively small stream. Shallow and rocky in low water, it becomes a foaming torrent in high water with some very hazardous sections, including a nine-foot falls which must be portaged. The Brunet taught me a lesson last fall because of a mistake I do not intend to repeat.

On one of those late Fall days, after heavy rains, a friend and I decided to make a short canoe trip after school. We are both high school teachers in Winter, Wisconsin, with many choice streams that can be reached within minutes. We chose the Brunet because neither of us had seen the lower section where it joins the Chippewa River. We selected a starting point that would provide a trip of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, when it would be dark.

From the start, we had our hands full; in places the channel was nearly blocked by fallen trees, and we stopped to select our course with care. The one portage we made was a long one, since we had to take out a considerable distance above a waterfall with a lengthy cascade leading down to it.

By the end of the second hour the river had slowed greatly. It was flooded into the surrounding woods, but there were only a few riffles breaking the surface. We assumed that the river would continue that way the rest of the trip, so we were not alarmed when it began to grow dark.

Before long, the darkness was so intense we could not even see each other. The river gave out only occasional gurgles and we floated in silence. We considered the possible danger of continuing in the dark, but we were surrounded by immense swamps and the prospect of sitting in a swamp all night was not appealing. Besides, we had come through all the bad water, so what was there to fear?

Shortly, we came to a small riffle which we could only hear. It sounded completely safe, with no rock burbles, so we began to float downstream. We had just gathered speed when we felt a strange sensation; the canoe silently came to a smooth stop and then began to move briskly upstream. The prow of the canoe had squarely caught a strand of barbed wire some farmer had strung across the stream! Our momentum had drawn the fence like a giant bow and we had been shot upstream like an arrow. The canoe spun sideways in the current and we could not recover in time to prevent being forced broadside into the fence. We were both thrown from the canoe and had to scramble for our lives to get through the fence without becoming entangled.

We both got through the fence and clung to the canoe like a pair of river rats on a log. The combination of total darkness, swift current, and high undercut banks prevented us from getting out for almost a mile. We finally grounded on a fallen tree. With the temperature a steaming 35 degrees, we developed shivers to unbelievable proportions. Fortunately, our trip was nearly at an end, and a short trip to our lower vehicle tied everything up.

Miraculously, neither of us was sick afterward, although my friend had deep gashes from the wire that served as a painful reminder for a long time. We learned, almost tragically, that it is far wiser to plan too short a trip than to attempt a trip that may not be completed in the available time.

CORRESPONDENCE

New Officers Named

QUEBEC CANOE ASSOCIATION

President: Girard Champagne of Grand Mere

Directors: Claude Corbien
Claude Paquin
Jean Guy Beaumier
Bob Cordner

MICHIGAN CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

President: Charlie Versteeg

Vice Pres: Jerry Kellogg

Treasurer: Don Burklund

Times Secretary: Steve Tripp

TREASURER'S REPORT:

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
Nov. 1, 1967 to Oct. 31, 1968

Alvin H. Wisniak, Treasurer

Dues		$2,261.58	
Sales to Members:			
Gross	$4,693.59		
Cost of Material	3,768.03		
Net Sales		925.56	
Other Income		276.95	
Gross Income			$3464.09
Expenses			2712.98
Net Income			$ 751.11

Total Membership 520

Regular 408
Junior 41
Associate 71

****

In reviewing the above statement it can be seen that the membership dues do not cover the expenses of the club. Therefore your dues are a real savings to you. Expenses included such items as $1,300 for the newsletter, $276 for postage, $250 for meetings, $50 for coffee and lunch at meetings and $82 for supplies.

If the MCA could double its membership the expenses would increase but not double, therefore making it possible to operate safely on a dues basis. Have you sent in your membership and that of a friend?

Hoigaard's inc.

Canoes - Clement Paddles - Tents - Sleeping Bags
Air Mats - Dried Food - Cots - Outdoor Clothing
Lifejackets and Vests - Cutlery

3550 SO. HWY. 100 ST. LOUIS PARK

PHONE 929-1351

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9–9:00 Tues., Wed., Sat. 9–5:30

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City & State _____ Zip Code _____

I wish to apply for membership in the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., for the year Nov. 1, 19 , to Oct. 31, 19

○ REGULAR ($5) ○ JUNIOR ($3) ○ ASSOCIATE ($2.50) ○ LIFE ($100)

SIGNED _____ Date _____ 19 _____

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY INFORMATION

Occupation _____ No. of Years canoeing _____ Canoe Owner? _____ Type _____

Please make checks payable to Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.
Your membership card will be your receipt and proof of payment.

Mail application to: Minnesota Canoe Association, Karl L. Ketter Membership Chairman, 101 - 79 Ave. No. Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55430

Moving?

So that you won't miss a single issue of HUT!, please send your new address to Karl L Ketter, 101 - 79th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN, 55430.



NOTICE: Bulk mail cannot be forwarded by the Post Office. Therefore, it is necessary for you to inform Karl Ketter if you have a change in address.

HUT! STAFF

EDITOR:	BOB O'HARA, JR., Minneapolis, Minn.
Ass't Ed:	Janet and Janice Robidoux, Fridley, Minn.
Mailing:	Karl and Betty Ketter, Keith and Pat Canny
Printing:	Adgraphic, Minneapolis, Minn. 781-7711

Mail news items, reviews, feature articles, questions for the Oracle to: Hut! Editor, 6001 Goodrich Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55416 or call 561-3007.

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

101-79th Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55430

The Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote all aspects of canoeing. Member of the American White Water Affiliation.

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Director	Terry McGaughey Route 1 Pine River, Minnesota	587-4850 56474
Director	Abner Jones 7966 Eastwood Drive Moundsview, Minnesota	784-5302 55432
Treasurer	Alvin Wisniak 5216 Colfax Ave. N. Minneapolis, Minnesota	521-5029 55430
Secretary	Georgia Longtin 1171 Selby Avenue St. Paul, Minnesota	644-0820 55104

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