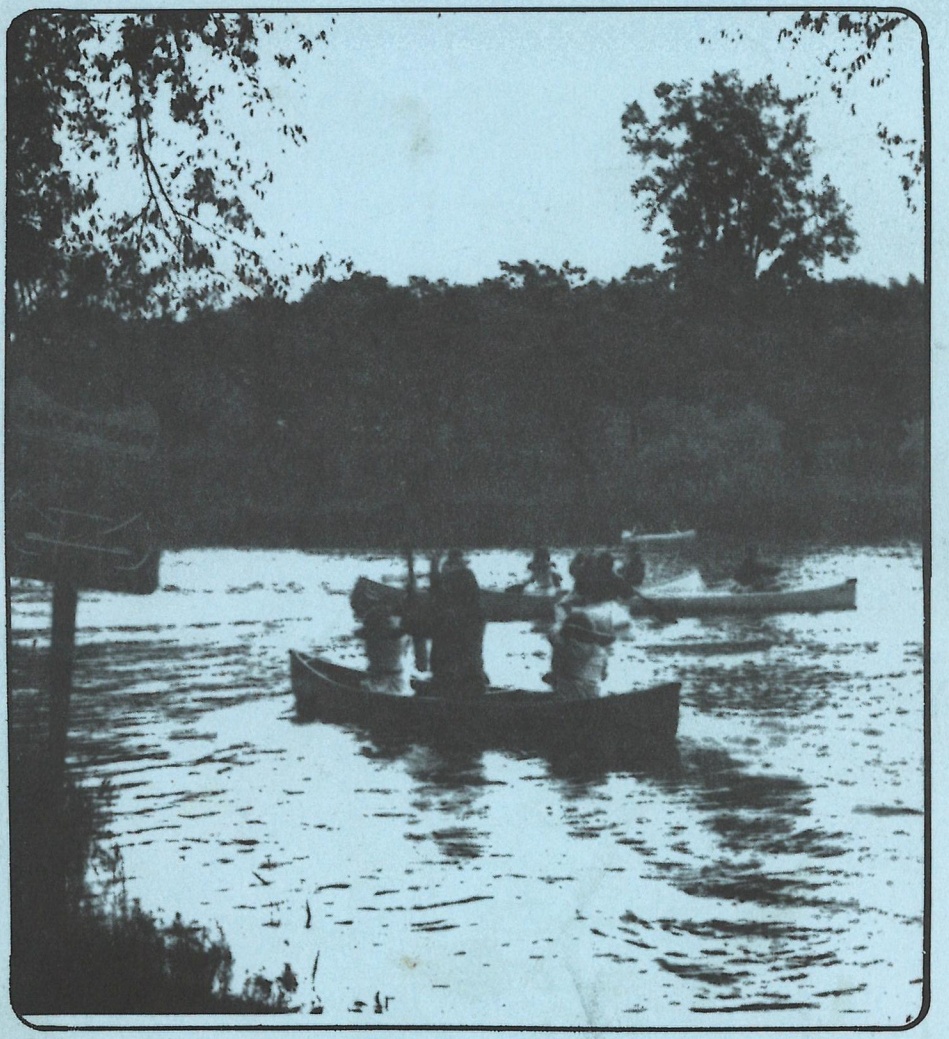
MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION

HUT!

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HUT! is the signal on which paddlers change sides. It was first used by Tom Estes and Eugene Jensen in the 1940s as they won four Aquatennial canoe races. It was adopted as the title of the MCA magazine because it symbolizes the teamwork and coordination necessary for effective canoeing.

HUT! is the monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. Copyright 1985, all rights reserved.

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Deadline for Each Issue: Submit articles to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send submissions to: John Wexler, 5341 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

KETTER CANOEING
(612) 561-2208
101 79th Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55444

Before we sold any canoes, we paddled them. Before you buy any canoe, you paddle it.

Canoes: We-no-nah, Sawyer, Peterson, Jensen Racing. Training, touring, solo, tandem.
Paddles: Cadorette, Peterson, Waddel, Hidde, Clement, Grey Owl. Bents, straights, lightweights, laminated.
Equipment: Custom canoe covers, sliding seats, footbraces, yokes, Quick 'n Easy carriers.
Accessories: Paddle covers, grey tape, t-shirts, hats, Seda and Omega life vests.
Materials: Resin and fiberglass, thwarts, gunwales, foams, wood and aluminum parts, strips.
Source: MCA Resin Depot, gathering place for Minnesota's long distance racers. Lessons and coaching in canoeing, racing and building. Free catalogues and magazines.

FROM THE BOW

This is the month when we reap the dividends of all that March snow we traditionally receive about hockey tournament time. The rivers are full and fast with the promise of fast runs and cold feet.

Don't forget to pull the River Level Inventory form out of last month's HUT! and take it along with you. We want to see those early reports too. Last year the most "reported on" river was the Kettle. This year we would like to see more reports on the Crow Wing, Cannon, Red Lake and Little Fork. I know we have canoes going to those rivers . . . so how's about some feedback?

This month is the "Canoe Event" at the State Fair Grounds on April 20th and 21st. The MCA and Rapid Riders will both be presenting parts of the programs on Saturday and Sunday.

Also new on the MCA calendar is the "Minnesota Canoe Convention," being put on for the first time by our Duluth Chapter on June 8th and 9th at Lake Nebagamon just outside of Superior, Wisconsin. That's right—in Wisconsin. In keeping with our regional membership, and recognizing that we are a midwestern club with members throughout the five state area, we are going to meet in Wisconsin. Who knows, maybe next year it'll be in South Dakota? At this year's canoe convention there will be camping or cabins, classes, cruises, and camaraderie with contingents expected from Duluth, Austin, St. Cloud and all points in between.

This is an exciting year for the MCA. We are offering more courses than ever before. The Governor's Canoe Day enters its third year this June, and we have a full schedule of races and cruises starting out with the Jensen Handicap and continuing right on through September with plenty of monthly programs and paddle nights.

Our builders have taken the "West System" epoxies to their collective hearts. The advantages of "no-smell" glassing has found many converts in our ranks. In fact, Bob Brown, our building director/epoxy-depot, can't keep it in stock. If you are even considering using the West System, make sure you specify it to Bob Brown ASAP, so he can ensure that he has enough to meet your requirements when you're ready to "glass". When we say come paddle with us, we want to make sure your canoe is finished and ready to go.
— Al Gustaveson, President

MAJOR UPCOMING MCA EVENTS

April 20	GREAT MINNESOTA CANOE EVENT
May 19	JENSEN HANDICAP
May 17-19	MCA CANOE SCHOOL WEEKEND
May 20	SOLO CANOE NIGHT
June 1	GOVERNOR'S CRUISE
June 8-9	MINNESOTA CANOE CONVENTION
June 26	SPECIAL CANOE NIGHT WITH WILDERNESS INQUIRY
July 24	CANOE NIGHT
August 14	SOLO CANOE NIGHT
September 7	MISSISSIPPI CLASSIC
October 12-13	COLOR CRUISE

FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Al Gustaveson, President. Excused were Steve Stedman, John Kopp, Bob Brown, and Warren Roundy. The minutes from the January board meeting were approved as read. Deletions were agreed on for HUT! Bob reported to Al that he had all the materials from West Systems.

We had a guest from the DNR, Bill Zachman. He attended the 1984 National River Symposium, and he reported to us about the different topics that were discussed.

Old Business: A motion was made that the physical size of HUT! not change from that size in Volume 21 Number 1 unless it is approved by the board. The motion was seconded and passed.

Burt Levy, Safety & Education: The Whitewater Expo is scheduled for February 16. The format of the Whitewater Course has changed. They will have it for three weekends, and three evenings on land (pool session). The cost will be $60 per person, and one weekend includes lodging. The same weekend, they will offer an Efficient Paddling Basic Course. The cost will be $20 per person, and will include food and lodging.

A motion was made that we appropriate $350, in addition to the $150 that was allotted and never used, for a scholarship fund to establish a whitewater instructor. The scholarship is to be awarded by the Rapid Riders board of directors. The motion was seconded and passed.

John Nosek, Conservation: John and Al attended the National Forest Service Audubon weekend. They spent one evening and a full day discussing the Users Certification Program for the BWCAW. They want to initiate a User Education program for the BWCAW, but they haven't decided how they want to format it yet. They are hoping to get the education program started this year. They came up with a four point program:

1. History: Uniqueness; how the Wilderness Act came to be.
2. Use of wilderness—choices and advice: Stress the fact that there are areas that are showing impact use. All the impact is concentrated in about 1% of the BWCAW.
3. Wilderness impact, and how to avoid impact (ties on trees instead of nails, etc.): They want to educate rather than regulate.
4. Safety: Overview of problems, how to prevent and/or handle first aid, etc.

John sent a copy of the book review on the book he read to the Publisher.

Other Business: A proposal was made to have hooded sweatshirts available to MCA members with the MCA logo on it. Al will check on cost.

Chris voiced a problem regarding the resin profit. He will discuss it with John Kopp and check with Industrial Art Supply to see how much they charge for resin.

John Ridge, Rep, American Lung Association: There will be a Midwest Mountaineering Great Minnesota Canoe Event on April 20 and 21 at the State Fair Grounds. The MCA is invited.

Jim Robinson, Cruising: Jim wants to plan a four day trip in July on the Fourth of July weekend. July 4th is on a Thursday this year, so people could easily take a vacation day for Friday and make it four day weekend trip. He wants input from board members for trip ideas. The third annual "Equippin' for Trippin' " will be presented at the Midwest Mountaineering Great Minnesota Canoe Event.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. — **Verna Robinson, Secretary**

CHAPTER NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG DISTANCE CANOE RACERS

Newsletter of Minnesota's Long Distance Canoe Racers
President: Karl Ketter, (612) 636-8116
Race Calendar: Warren Thunstrom, (612) 780-3284/522-3395
Coordinator: Betty Ketter, (612) 561-2208

ROOKIES '85

A half decade ago an old tired racer needed a partner. He found a young new racer who showed potential even when in junior aluminum classes. They paddled together and their training runs turned into academic seminars. The rookie was bright, observant and asked questions. The old pro was hard pressed to answer all of the questions and the usual result was to try something new and then analyze the results. It was the best season ever for the old pro and the young racer.

Today that one-time rookie is one of the top twenty racers in North America. Both he and the now-even-older pro still spend one evening each week answering questions, teaching new canoers and passing on as much of the knowledge of Minnesota racing as they can. Even the current Shawinigan champions and USCA Women's C-1 champions attend. The group is larger now—up to 16 teams—but the educational competitive training is unequaled in introducing newcomers to the complicated and demanding activity of long distance canoe racing.

These Rookie Racer Sessions are held every Monday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. from April through October on the Mississippi River at the U of M Showboat landing. A lot of old and fast racers eagerly await the new paddlers who come to see how it's done. Rookies is for those who want to learn. All you need to be a rookie is a life jacket, the ability to sweat for one hour, and the drive to get to the river bank. On the very first day the cruiser, citizen racer, triathlete, junior paddler and curious will paddle in a racing hull with one of the older, more experienced racers.

The scenic bluffs of the Mississippi canyon echo with "huts," shouted commands and the clash of gunnels and slashing paddles. Befuddled rowers agonize over the agility of the small canoes that fear no logs or barges. The paddlers see beautiful sunsets, lovers strolling the banks, a wily beaver, vandals, commercial shipping and a variety of water quality. The canoeing experience is like no other. You are invited to the paddling and the coffee and discussion that always follow.

For information call Karl Ketter at 636-8116. (Rookie sessions are also held in Grand Rapids and Owatonna.)

RACING CANOE AVAILABILITY

Before you read the following list of manufacturers of North American Racing Canoes (18½', 3&27), be advised that Minnesota is the most prolific producer of racing canoe designs. The long time careers of Jensen, the Petersons, Ketters, Neddermeyer, Waddell, and a dozen others have built an incredible source of racing canoes. Many of the manufacturers on this list sell Minnesota designs in fiberglass and Kevlar. Some manufacturers have designed their own, and the quality and originality varies. The information collected comes from several sources including CANOE magazine's annual boat buyer's guide.

A Minnesota boat buyer should go directly to the racer who is most impressive in races and training runs and most similar in style, size and strength to the buyer. Ask the racer the source of his hull. Every racing team should look for the boat best for them—a new partner may mean a new boat will be faster, easier to control, steadier, etc.

In addition to these manufacturers, several plans are available and even designing a new hull is possible, as is buying an experienced racer's experimental hull.

In addition to tracking down racers at events and contacting manufacturers, boat buyers and sellers can place free notices in this publication and can leave a notice on Betty's Bulletin Board. MCA members can also use the free ad service in HUT!

We are now working on a list of sources for C-1 racing hulls and for USCA hulls. If you have information you can share with us on your C-1 or USCA racing hull, please contact Karl Ketter.

North American Racing Canoes (18½', 3&27):

KEVLAR

1. Ev Crozier, Marinette, WI, (715) 735-9763
   Kevlar, Hexel, epoxy hulls; 28 lbs.; about $1300. Jensen models "old pro," 007, P2. Corbin, Hassel #4 and #5. Tuttle pro boat. No dealers. Two year waiting list.
2. We-no-nah, P.O. Box 247, Winona, MN 55987
   Kevlar, foams, polyester hulls; 32 lbs.; about $1200. Jensen "old pro," 007, P2. Many dealers (Ketter Canoeing, Hoigaard's, etc.).
3. Sawyer, 234 South State Street, Oscoda, MI 48750
   Kevlar, foam, polyester; 32 lbs.; about $1400. "Super" model by Yost. Many dealers (Ketter Canoing, Hoigaard's, etc.)
4. Pleasant Valley Canoes, 151 Boston Road, Suttons, MA 01527
   Kevlar, PVC, poly; about $1100. Peterson "Bonnie" model. Contact Steve Peterson.
5. Wabash Valley Canoes, 616 Lafayette Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
   Kevlar $1000; fiberglass $700. Tuttle design.
6. Corbin designs by Claude Corbin on the Crozier method. Claude Corbin, Cap de la Madeline, Quebec.
7. Bluewater, 45 Speedvale Avenue East, Guelph, Ontario, Canada NIH IJ2
   Jensen Pro, glass and nylon; about $1300.
8. Nova Craft (Ontario manufacturer)—pro boat.

CHAPTER NEWS (Cont).

9. British Columbia manufacturer—Jensen Kevlar pro boat.
10. Seda Products, 1085 Bay Boulevard, Chula Vista, CA 92011
    Marathon USCA fiberglass, $700; Kevlar epoxy, $800.

WOOD

1. Gene Jensen, 308 78th Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55444, 561-2229
   Unlimited designs suited to special or exact requirements. Wood, glass, poly; 32 lbs.; $700 to $800.
2. Morley Canoes, P.O. Box 147, Swan Lake, MT 59911
   Pro boat in wood, glass, epoxy; 35 lbs.; $900.
3. Mentha Wooden Boat Co, Route 2, 23rd Street, Gables, MI 40955
   Mentha pro, 45 lbs., wood and West epoxy; $1400.
4. Sundance Canoe, Box 1709, Hwy. 169, Graurhurt, Ontario, Can. P0C IG0.
   Sundance Pro, 40 lbs., wood, 6 oz. epoxy; about $1200.

LOCAL DESIGNERS/BUILDERS

1.	Gene Jensen	561-2229
2.	Steve and Buzz Peterson	753-2921/434-7630
3.	Dan Hassel	1-742-9677
4.	Karl Ketter	636-8116/561-2208
5.	Gary Neddermeyer	295-3591
6.	Clint Waddell	561-5769
7.	Bob Brown	432-7557

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Newsletter of the Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Chapter
President: John Wexler, (612) 722-7069
Cruising: Mike Vande Vyver, (612) 926-7633
Membership: Paul Rem, (612) 645-3538

EASTERN WHITEWATER TRIP SETS OUT

Jim Deerstein (or beerstein), Dave Nelson, Dave Hoiland, Barb Peterson, Burt Levy and Bek Kragh headed for a ten day trip to the Nantahalia Outdoor Center. All are expected to come back with suntans and new paddling abilities.

RAPID RIDERS SET GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rapid Riders decided at their March meeting that the following criteria should be used in selecting people for classes.

1. People should be selected because of their paddling abilities.
2. People should be selected because of their teaching abilities.
3. Chapter and MCA commitment are important.
4. Financial need.
5. The final decision should be made by both the Rapid Riders and the Safety & Education committee of the MCA.
6. A payback system should be set up subsequent to successful completion of the class where the grant monies are given to grantees over a period of time.

DESERT CANOE CLUB

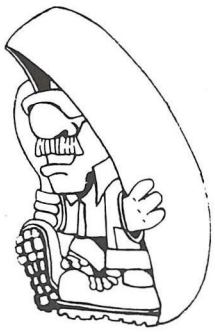
AUSTIN CANOE CLUB

President: Ardell Gorman, (507) 433-7465
Vice President: Jerry Novak, (507) 433-1392

ST. CLOUD CANOE CLUB

CHAPTER NEWS (Cont.)

THE DULUTH TRAVELER



Newsletter of the Twin Ports Chapter
President: David Spencer, (218) 624-3413
9 St. Louis Court, Duluth, MN 55808
Cruising: Gardner Ellis, (218) 728-5304
Whitewater & Membership: Rick Luck, (218) 724-7992
Racing: Jim Wheeler, (612) 728-3368
Building: Greg Furtman, (218) 727-7242

TWIN PORTS NEWS

As the raw winds of February and early March give way to a penetrating sun, our favorite creeks and rivers are bursting forth with the beloved spring run-off. For paddlers everywhere the melting of snow means one thing: the rivers are open. The Brule, Amnicon, St. Louis, St. Croix, Kettle, Mississippi, Cloquet, Temperance and others are all runnable in the months of April and May. Many of the cruises led by Twin Ports' paddlers will be on these rivers. Look to the calendar for sanctioned Twin Ports Chapter cruises. Others, done spontaneously, will be planned a day or two before the trip. Someone will be paddling every weekend, so call one of the officers if you want to come along.

Trips in April include the Brule River Trout Scout. This is an annual event which has seen as many as 16 canoes or as few as three depending on the weather. Last year it snowed, the year before it was 75 degrees. Take a chance and come along. Bring a lunch and extra clothes. The next day Gardner Ellis will lead a trip on one of his favorite rivers, the Tamarack. It's a beautiful trip with an experienced leader. Call Gardner in advance to make arrangements. The following weekend will find whitewater enthusiasts on one of the local Class II-III runs. Come and play in the water, but be prepared to swim. Call David Spencer to make arrangements.

Other spring trips will be on the lower Brule May 11, the Little Fork May 10-12, Flatwater Slalom May 12, the upper Mississippi May 17-19, the Namekagon River Cruise June 1-2, and the Minnesota Canoe Convention June 6-8 on Lake Nebagamon right near the Bois Brule in Northwest Wisconsin.

The big highlight of this summer will be the MCA Convention at Lake Nebagamon. All paddlers are invited. The Brule is five minutes away for cruising and whitewater, Lake Nebagamon is large and perfect for lake paddling and racing. Make this your chance to meet canoeists from the Twin Ports, the Twin Cities, Austin, St. Cloud, Little Falls or wherever. Call Tom Nicodemus for reservations and information, (715) 394-6024.

Anyone interested in building a woodstrip, solo or tandem boat, your chance to do it with a master craftsman has arrived. Greg Furtman will be leading canoe building this spring. Call Greg for more information. -- **David Spencer**

"FAS BACK"

Have you ever been cruising down a river, relaxed and enjoying the moment, when a familiar roaring sound penetrates your quiet, too late? You are caught in the pull of the rapids.

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For more information on this fast moving item, call 1-800-FAS-BACK and ask for Jerry. — A **Fred Freeman** Fiction

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RESULTS OF 1ST ANNUAL MANKATO POOL SLALOM HELD FEBRUARY 24, 1985

Here are the slalom results from the Mankato Union of Canoeists and Kayakists (MUCK). The pool slalom went better than expected. We had 29 participants and entrants in almost every one of the 21 classes. It is a good spectator event. Our local newspapers loved it. We got front page pictures and stories in both the town and college papers.

Classes were K-1 M (one-person kayak, men), K-1 W (one-person kayak, women), C-1 M (one-person canoe, men), C-1 W (one-person canoe, women), and C-2 (two-person canoe).

Plans are being laid for next year's event. We hope some Rapid Riders would like to come down to compete. Also we have a Mild Wildwater Canoe and Kayak race coming up on May 11th. We will keep you informed. — **Lee Potzler, MUCK President**

K-1 M EXPERT		
1. Brett Sorenson	Fridley	1:39
2. Don Sorenson	Albert Lea	1:53
3. Tim Hieb	New Hope	1:56
4. Maurice Phipps	Minneapolis	1:58
K-1 W EXPERT		
1. Brenda Sorenson-Brown	Minneapolis	2:14
2. Kim Crooks	St. Paul	2:23
K-1 M INTERMEDIATE		
1. Lee Potzler	Mankato	2:15
2. Mike Morgan	No. Mankato	2:17
3. Neil Knopf	Mankato	2:36
4. Bob Zoet	No. Mankato	2:50
5. Ed Yates	Mankato	3:05
6. Bill Anderson	Mankato	3:08
7. Phil Keenan	Rochester	3:24

K-1 W INTERMEDIATE

1.	Sue Hammes-Knopf	Mankato	2:49
2.	Terri Stoneburner	Mankato	3:04

K-1 M NOVICE

1.	Eric Olmanson	St. Peter	2:37
2.	Paul Amber	Mankato	3:02
3.	Mike Wiig	Mankato	3:06
4.	Brian Kerfoot	Mankato	3:21
5.	Brad Eichstadt	Mankato	3:23
6.	Dave McMonigal	No. Mankato	3:55
7.	Lee Ganske	Mankato	4:23
8.	Phil Melhorn	Mankato	5:07

K-1 W NOVICE

1.	Linda Wallace	Mankato	3:44
2.	Heather Tideman	St. Peter	3:56
3.	Agnes Keenan	Rochester	4:12

C-1 W EXPERT

1.	Brenda Sorenson-Brown	Minneapolis	3:38

C-1 M EXPERT

1.	Dave Gardiner	Brooklyn Center	1:46
2.	Brett Sorenson	Fridley	1:56
3.	Don Sorenson	Albert Lea	1:59
4.	Rick Korinek	St. Paul	2:01
5.	Eric Hobbie	St. Paul	2:21
6.	Maurice Phipps	Minneapolis	2:35

C-1 M NOVICE

1.	Lee Potzler	Mankato	2:48
2.	Mike Morgan	No. Mankato	3:10
3.	Paul Amber	Mankato	3:20
4.	Bob Zoet	No. Mankato	4:23
5.	Neil Knopf	Mankato	4:49

C-2 MIXED

1.	Brenda Sorenson-Brown Don Sorenson	Minneapolis Albert Lea	2:42

C-2 EXPERT

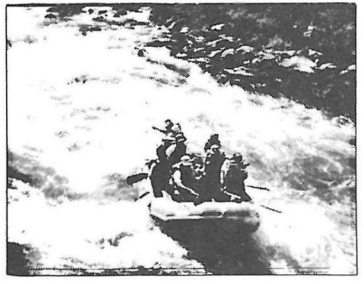
1.	Brett Sorenson Don Sorenson	Fridley Albert Lea	2:14
2.	Mike Morgan Maurice Phipps	No. Mankato Minneapolis	2:24
3.	Eric Hobbie Rick Korinek	St. Paul St. Paul	3:00

C-2 NOVICE

1.	Paul Amber Bob Zoet	Mankato No. Mankato	3:05
2.	Lee Potzler Brian Kerfoot	Mankato Mankato	3:10
3.	Lee Ganske Phil Melhorn	Mankato Mankato	4:02







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MN45

NORTH COUNTRY CANOE CONVENTION

The Duluth Chapter of the MCA will host the first annual North Country Canoe Convention on June 7, 8 and 9 near the Bois Brule River in Northwest Wisconsin. The convention will be open to all MCA members, and every effort will be made to make this a fun and affordable weekend for all types of paddlers.

The base site for the weekend will be the Superior-Douglas County YMCA Camp on Lake Nebagamon, which is just four miles down the road from Stones Bridge on the upper Bois Brule River. The camp is situated on 80 acres with 2,000 feet of frontage and is made up of a dining-meeting hall, seven cabins which will sleep 75 people, and several ball fields for parking and tent camping.

If all plans work out, the Duluth Chapter members will coordinate whitewater trips on the lower Brule, leisure float and paddle trips on the upper river, poling instruction in the state park campground area of the river, and flat water instruction on the lake. Several canoe manufacturers and shops will also be contacted with hopes of having demo boats brought in. Other forms of recreation such as volleyball and softball will also be available. Families are encouraged to attend, and the YMCA staff has mentioned the possibility of offering day care services if the need exists.

More detailed information will be included in the May issue of HUT!

BROWN'S MISSISSIPPI GRUNT

Want a fast cruise? Care to paddle with MCA'ers and not be held back by the guy in the Coleman?

Meet us at Lake Rebecca park in Hastings at 8:30 a.m. April 27th. Leave your picnic lunch in the car and carry only water and pep pills. Be prepared to travel. The route is 32 miles from Hastings to the Inver Grove bridge and back.

Everyone will turn back after three hours and meet back at the park for a late lunch and rubdown. Who knows, maybe the guy in the Coleman will be the first one back.

Contact Bob Brown, (612) 432-7557. — **Bob Brown**

woodswomen

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RAFTING THE RIO GRANDE
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(612) 870-8291

UPCOMING CRUISES

Crow River

For a peaceful family cruise, come and join us on a trip on the Crow River, which is on the northern border of Hennepin County. We will be meeting in Hanover by the Fire Station at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 4th. From there we will go to the park nearby and leave our canoes, gear, paddles, canoe partners, etc., there. We will then shuttle cars to Dayton and bring one or two vehicles back with the drivers, depending on how many we have. We will start the trip in Hanover and canoe to Berning Mill Dam. This dam is a mandatory portage. Plan to bring your lunch; this is a good place for a lunch stop. After lunch, we will continue on our cruise, and will take out in Dayton.

This river has a wilderness setting, even though it is near the Twin Cities area. It is a nice way to start the quiet water canoe season. FMI: Jim Robinson, (612) 588-5402.

Minnehaha Creek

We will be leading a trip again this year on Minnehaha Creek. We will meet at Gray's Bay at 9:30 a.m. and arrange the shuttle from there. Trip length will be determined by those participating.

This trip is for novice to intermediate canoers. There will be a lot of turning, avoiding tree limbs, rocks, etc. We will be stopping for lunch at Zantigo's in St. Louis Park, so you can either bring your lunch or bring some money to buy something at Zantigo's. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. FMI: Jim Robinson, (612) 588-5402.

AMAZON RIVER and SOLO CANOES

These are the topics of two programs coming up at the Science Museum of Minnesota located in downtown St. Paul at 30 East 10th Street.

The Amazon River program will feature Kirk Millhone and his companions who planned and attempted to execute a canoe trip down the mighty Amazon. Their trip eventually failed when they were wiped out by floodwaters. (These were the same floodwaters that MCA Director and former Amazon traveler Mike Vande Vyver had warned them about.) According to the Science Museum, "Kirk Millhone is the world record holder in marathon canoeing, having traveled the Mississippi River in 35 days and 11 hours, breaking the old record by almost seven days." (Last year Valerie Fons and Verlen Krueger of Michigan completed the Mississippi in only 23 days, 11 hours; Valerie spoke about it at the MCA Banquet February 23rd.) This program will be held Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the Science Museum.

Also being presented at the Science Museum on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. will be a program on solo canoes by Cliff Jacobson. Cliff is a regular contributor to HUT! and writes books on canoeing and camping. Both programs cost $4-5. FMI call 221-9438.

CANEWS (Cont).

THE GREAT MINNESOTA CANOE EVENT

The first annual Great Minnesota Canoe Event is now set for Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21, at the Home Improvement Building at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. As the April HUT! went to press, the schedule of special events was just being put into final form. According to Curt Johnson of Midwest Mountaineering, the official order of activities should be as follows:

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

11:30 a.m. — Minnesota's Designated Canoe Routes, presentation by the MCA.
1:30 p.m. — Mississippi Challenge, slide show presentation by Verlen Kruger and Valerie Fons.
3:30 p.m. — Canoeing Alaska's Noatak River, Woodswomen.
4:30 p.m. — Easy and Efficient Paddling, Harry Roberts.
6:30 p.m. — Equipment for Canoe Tripping, Cliff Jacobson.
7:30 p.m. — The Ultimate Canoe Challenge, slide show presentation by Verlen Kruger of his 28,000-mile canoe journey.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

12:00 noon — Whitewater Rivers of Northern Minnesota, the Cascaders.
1:30 p.m. — The Ultimate Canoe Challenge, repeat presentation, Verlen Kruger.
3:00 p.m. — BWCAW and Lake Superior Kayak Touring, Andy Knapp.
4:30 p.m. — Family Canoe Tripping, the MCA.
6:30 p.m. — Mississippi Challenge, repeat presentation, Verlen Kruger and Valerie Fons.

The MCA will be among more than two dozen organizations, outfitters, equipment and boat manufacturers, and canoeing enthusiasts who will staff information booths at the show. In addition to the special event presentations, there will be regular clinics on trip planning, safety, paddling, touring with small children, choosing a canoe or kayak, choosing a paddle, canoe repair, and other topics of interest.

Canoes, kayaks and accessories will also be on sale. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information contact Curt Johnson at Midwest Mountaineering, (612) 339-3433.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22. SOLO NIGHT.

FMI: Bob Brown. 432-7557.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

An admirer once asked Simon Kenton, the great 18th Century frontiersman, to name three items he'd most want to have along on a lengthy trek across the "dark and bloody ground." "Rifle and tomahawk," replied Simon wistfully, "then maybe m' knife or fire-steel. I'd have to think on it."

Hand-axe, short-axe, hatchet, or tomahawk. Whatever you call it, variations on the theme have been around in one form or other for perhaps 200,000 years. No other cutting tool has proven as versatile . . . or as controversial.

To most outdoors people, a hand-axe is a dangerous toy—inferior to a full axe for bringing down big timber or splitting wood, and too short to deflect a glancing blow while chopping. Cut fingers, feet, and shins are par for the course wherever hatchets are found—which sadly enough is usually in the hands of well-meaning youngsters. Even when all safety precautions are followed to the letter, hand-axes can slip. And cut! Reason enough to ban them from every summer camp in the land, and the pages of almost all outdoor books.

Denounciations are poignant: "Now a hatchet is a dangerous thing . . . the term 'hatchet job' . . . refers to the poor quality of work and frequent self-mutilization that usually occurs when the instrument is used for chopping wood" (from The Joy of Camping by Richard Langer). Or, "Hatchets and other miniatures are poor substitutes (for a big axe), indeed worse than no substitute at all. Not only are they not up to the job of bringing down big wood, they force the user to flail at his target with brute strength" (The Complete Wilderness Paddler, James West Davidson and John Rugge).

Given this kind of glowing testimony, how is it that the lowly hand-axe has been able to survive a quarter million years of uninterrupted production? Only the fixed blade hunting knife and skin drum can share that honor. Could our ancestors have known something we've long forgotten? Or do we expect this tool to perform miracles—miracles for which it was never intended? Perhaps a short lesson in American history will reveal the truth.

"Tomahawk" is an Algonquian word for a club or throwing type weapon. The original tomahawks consisted of a carved wooden club about two feet long with an inset ball of stone, wood, or bone. Later models featured finely crafted heads of worked stone or obsidian. Whatever the substance, its function was clear: it was designed to kill people! Certainly tomahawks were on occasion used in the hunt, but that was never their primary intent.

Fleshing hides and downing trees required more efficient tools than stone tomahawks. Large trees were slowly burned down. Primitive man packed clay around the trunk above the stump to prevent the flames from spreading. Then he build a hot fire beneath and infrequently nursed along the project with artful swipes of his dull stone axe (tomahawk).

When, in the 16th Century, Europeans introduced the steel tomahawk, battle efficiency, but not general use of the weapon, changed significantly. Steel tomahawks were lighter and faster to swing than their stone predecessors and so added a measure of finesse to the unruly game of battle. But the labor of felling large trees was still the domain of the fire and clay ring. Tomahawks were simply too small and light for the drudgery of clearing land.

Then came a revolution: Sometime in the 1600's a clever European offered trade axes with more "useful" heads—heads which in fact closely resembled the modern Hudson bay style axe. The "trade tomahawk" was ground thin for efficient chopping, and some expensive models even sported a built-in "peace pipe".

"Pipe axes" were highly regarded by Indian braves while the more utilitarian models were cherished by squaws for such unmanly pursuits as splitting kindling and pounding teepee pegs. Voila! The modern hatchet was born. From here it was but a short jaunt to polished steel heads and vinyl-wrapped handles.

From splitting skulls and pounding heads to cutting kindling and hammering pegs—all in just 300 years! Noble evolution? Perhaps, but never once along the way did tomahawk users ever suggest the weapon could be used for much more than "all of the above". The tomahawk was never conceived as a cutting or chopping tool, and as every modern campcrafter will attest, it never evolved into one. All of which brings us to our original premise that modern man's expectations of the tool are out of character with its original intent.

Bringing down big wood is the domain of the saw, as is ripping it into stove lengths. Full size axes—a la those with 28-32 inch handles—are useful for hacking dead stumps, splitting fireplace wood, and blazing wilderness trails. Where then does this leave the much maligned hand-axe? To its primary modern function, of course—namely producing kindling for the small campfire, and pounding tent stakes. To the list we might also add setting rivets in torn packstraps, attaching snaps to field clothing and camping gear, straightening bent aluminum hardware on damaged canoes and fishing boats, field dressing (hacking the bones of) a large animal killed in the hunt, "tenderizing" a tough cut of meat or an objectionable root beneath a tent, scraping caked mud from boot bottoms, and—in a pinch—turning half done flapjacks smoking on the griddle.

As you can see, the modern hatchet ably performs a diversity of outdoor functions, albeit even with its inability to "bring down big wood." But the greatest value of this generally misunderstood tool is as an aid to making a campfire after a week-long rain. Since all wood that's small enough to be broken by hand is apt to be thoroughly soaked, the solution is to cut a dead standing tree or downed log into 12-inch sections with a small folding saw. Then, using the procedure below, split the sections into stove-size kindling with your hand-axe. Tinder whittled from the splittings with a pocket knife is sure to be bone dry—guaranteed to produce a one match fire instantly!

Any camper who can't start and maintain a small campfire—even in a driving rain—with the aid of knife, hand-axe and saw had best stay home and tend the thermostat of his fuel oil furnace!

The key to safety is to NEVER use the hand-axe for cutting wood. That, as mentioned, is the domain of the folding saw and, to a lesser extent, the full size axe. The hatchet is a splitting tool, a rivet/snap setting tool, and on occasion a handy hammer. It should be kept sharp and oiled, and well sheathed in heavy leather or brass. Used and cared for as described, it is safe even in the hands of exuberant teenagers.*

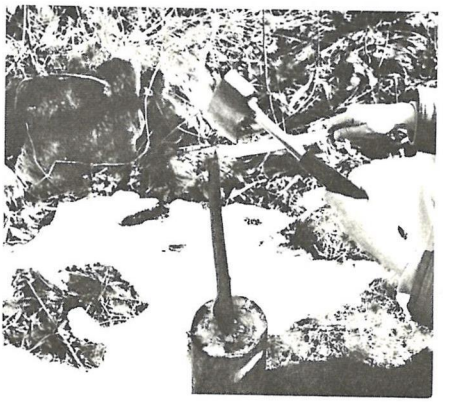
Simon Kenton trusted his fine steel tomahawk for much more than self-defense. Like all outdoorsmen of his day, he appreciated a versatile tool that could do a multitude of cutting, hammering, and prying jobs while being light, compact, and handy. We've listened to the uninformed ravings of camping writers long enough. Now it's time to profit from our knowledge of the past—time to reinstate the hand-axe to its rightful role in the American camping scene. — **Cliff Jacobson**

*I've guided hundreds of teenagers on wilderness treks and always carry a hand-axe for use in camp. Youngsters are permitted to use the hatchet ONLY for splitting wood per the method outlined below. In 20 years of guiding, there has never been a single axe-i-dent!

How to Split Fine Kindling with the Hand-Axe:

Kindling always splits easier from the end grain—a procedure made safer if you support the kindling pieces with a stick of kindling as shown. Now if you "miss", there'll be no cut fingers. Incredibly small pieces of kindling can be produced this way . . . SAFELY!

(Note: These tips and scores of others will be found in Cliff's upcoming book, The New Wilderness Canoeing & Camping, which will be released in January 1986.)

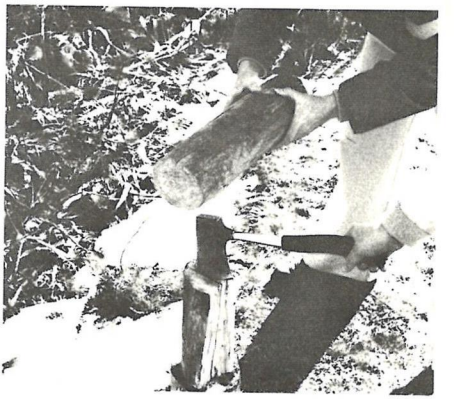


(Photos courtesy of Cliff Jacobson.)

Using the Hand-Axe to Split Logs:

1. Saw log into 12-inch sections and set the hand-axe lightly into the end grain of one of the sections.
2. Hold the axe firmly while a friend pounds the head through with a length of log. Easy as pie!

Note that the axe is used as a splitting wedge, not as a chopping tool!



CRUISING CALENDAR

APRIL

6 EXPLORATORY CRUISE ON THE WAPOGASSET RIVER, near Amery WI, Class II-III whitewater. FMI Bek Kragh 929-9454.

20-21 CRUISE ON THE KETTLE & ST. LOUIS, rivers, Class IV whitewater. FMI John Murphy 431-5569.

20 TWIN PORTS BRULE RIVER TROUT SCOUT. Meet at Perkins in Superior at 9:00 a.m. Class I & II whitewater. First beginning club trip of the year. FMI David Spencer (218) 624-3413.

21 TWIN PORTS TAMARACK RIVER CRUISE. Meet at Gardner Ellis at 8:00 a.m. Class I & II. FMI Gardner Ellis (218) 728-5304.

26-28 CRUISE TO SOUTH FORK OF FLAMBEAU, Class II-III whitewater FMI Dave Hoiland 377-5253.

26-28 CRUISE TO THE PRESQUE ISLE, Michigan Upper Peninsula rivers. Class IV plus whitewater. FMI John Wexler 827-6693.

27 MISSISSIPPI RIVER. Saturday. Fast Pace. See Article in HUT. FMI Bob Brown 432-7557

27 RICE CREEK CRUISE. Saturday. FMI Ken Espersen 645-8463.

27 or 28 TWIN PORTS WHITEWATER EXPERIENCE. Temperence, Kettle, St. Louis or other rivers. Class III river experience required. Location depends on water levels. FMI David Spencer (218) 624-3413.

MAY

3-5 CRUISE TO THE ROARING STONEY RIVER, and exploratory Mystery River. Class III and IV whitewater. FMI John Wexler 827-6693.

4 NORTH FORK OF CROW RIVER. Saturday. Hanover to Dayton. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402. See Article.

10-12 TWIN PORTS LITTLE FORK CRUISE. Flatwater Class I & II rapids. Meet at Jerry Challman's at 6:00 Friday Afternoon. FMI Jerry Challman (218) 724-6126.

11 TWIN PORTS LOWER BRULE WHITEWATER. For novice-intermediate whitewater canoeist. Class II-III. FMI Rick Luck (218) 724-7992.

MAY (Cont).

11 MINNEHAHA CREEK. Saturday. Intermediate skills needed. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402. See Article.

11 MUCK (Mankato Union of Canoeists and Kayakers) Pool Slalom at Mankato State University. (See Article).

11-12 KETTLE AND ST. LOUIS RIVERS. FMI John Wexler 827-6693.

12 TWIN PORTS FLATWATER SLALOM COURSE. Billings Park on St. Louis River. 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for novice and expert alike. FMI call Dean McCall (715) 394-2866 or Byron Selbude (715) 392-6350.

17-19 TWIN PORTS UPPER MISSISSIPPI WEEKEND. Flatwater and Class I Rapids. Gardner Ellis trip leader: Leave 6:00 p.m. Friday, camp Lake Itasca; camp on river Saturday return to Duluth 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Reserve spot one week in advance. Call Gardner (218) 728-5304.

18-19 ST. CROIX WEEKEND. Saturday and Sunday. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

18-19 ST. CROIX RIVER CRUISE. Saturday and Sunday FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

19 JENSEN HANDICAP. Saturday. FMI Karl Ketter 636-8116.

22 SOLO NIGHT. Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. Lake Nokomis. Picnic Supper. FMI Bob Brown 432-7557.

24-25 BOIS BRULE RIVER. Saturday and Sunday. Other rivers as levels permit. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

JUNE

1 GOVERNOR'S CRUISE. Saturday. Location Not Firm. FMI Al Gustaveson 778-8525.

1-2 TWIN PORTS NAMEKAGON CRUISE. Class I & II rapids. Overnight on river. FMI Jerry Challman (218) 724-6126.

6-9 TWIN PORTS MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION FIRST CONVENTION. YMCA Camp Lake Nebagamon Wisconsin. All invited. MCA members and others. See article for details. FMI Tom Nicodemos (715) 394-6024. or David Spencer (218) 624-3413.

14-16 KETTLE AND ST. LOUIS RIVERS. Class III Whitewater. FMI: Rapids Riders Representative listed in HUT!

15-16 TWIN PORTS GRANDMA'S GETAWAY. White River Cruise and camp with Greg Furtman trip leader. FMI Greg (218) 727-7242.

CRUISING CALENDAR (Cont).

JUNE (Cont).

15-16 CROW WING RIVER. Saturday and Sunday. Shell City to Nimrod. Leader Bill Marcoullier. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

15-16 ST CROIX RIVER. Saturday and Sunday. Gordon Dam to Riverside. Beginning Whitewater skills required. FMI Lora Lakin 475-1318.

21 TWIN PORTS SUMMER SOLSTICE. Paddle & Dinner. Meet 7:00 p.m. end of Park Point. Paddle to Radisson Restaurant for cocktails and dinner. End the evening with fire on the beach. For reservations contact Gardner Ellis (218) 728-5304.

22-23 UPPER IOWA RIVER. Saturday and Sunday, FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

26 SPECIAL CANOE NIGHT. Wednesday. FMI Al Gustaveson 778-8525.

JULY

4-7 NAMEKAGON RIVER. Thursday - Sunday 4-Day Trip FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

6 BETTY KETTERS MOONLIGHT CRUISE. Saturday, FMI Betty Ketter 561-2208.

19-21 VERMILLION RIVER. On edge of the BWCA. Class III whitewater. FMI Rapids Riders Representative listed in HUT!

24 CANOE NIGHT. Wednesday. FMI Al Gustaveson 778-8525.

AUGUST

14 SOLO NIGHT. Wednesday. Lake Nokomis FMI Bob Brown 432-7557.

SEPTEMBER

?? KICKAPOO RIVER. Watch Future HUTS! for details.

OCTOBER

12-13 ANNUAL COLOR CRUISE AND BUILDERS CONTEST. Saturday and Sunday. St. Croix River. Wild River State Park to St. Croix Falls. Second Day Taylors Falls to William O'Brien State Park. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

CANOE CALENDAR

APRIL

3 MONTHLY DIRECTORS MEETING - Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. All members welcome. Earl Liberko's 8902 Grospoint Avenue So. Cottage Grove, MN FMI Al at 778-8525.

6 EXPLORATORY CRUISE ON THE WAPOGASSET RIVER, near Amery WI, Class II-III whitewater. FMI Bek Kragh 929-9454.

9 RAPIDS RIDERS BUSINESS MEETING, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Valli Restaurant at Cedar Riverside in Minneapolis.

12-14 ACA WHITEWATER CANOE INSTRUCTORS COURSE, Whitewater Specialties in Langlade, WI. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

16 RAPIDS RIDERS GENERAL MEETING. 7 p.m. EMS Lob Pine. 1627 West County Road B First meeting of Session I of the MCA Beginning Whitewater course. We will be covering personal gear and the entire class schedule. All Welcome. Call Greg Pothoff 894-4480.

16 CANOEING THE FAR NORTH, Slide show series. Sponsored by Wilderness Inquiry Association. Stillwater Public Library, 223 North Fourth Street, at 6:30 p.m. FMI Don Mitchell 433-3284 or Bill Simpson 433-3451.

20 TWIN PORTS BRULE TROUT SCOUT. Meet at Perkins in Superior at 9:00 a.m. Class I & II whitewater. First begining club trip of the year. FMI David Spencer (218) 624-3413.

20-21 CRUISE ON THE KETTLE & ST. LOUIS, rivers, Class IV whitewater. FMI Trip Coordinator John Murphy 431-5569. Trip Leader Greg Pothoff.

20-21 THE GREAT MINNESOTA CANOE EVENT, Minnesota State Fair Grounds. Exhibits, movies, demonstrations, and seminars on all aspects of canoeing and kayaking. Sponsored by Midwest Mountaineering.

21 TWIN PORTS TAMARACK RIVER CRUISE. Meet at Gardner Ellis at 8:00 a.m. Class I & II. FMI Gardner Ellis (218) 728-5304.

26-28 CRUISE TO SOUTH FORK OF FLAMBEAU, Class II-III whitewater FMI Dave Hoiland 377-5253.

26-28 CRUISE TO THE PRESQUE ISLE, Michigan Upper Peninsula rivers. Class IV plus whitewater. FMI John Wexler 827-6693.

27 RICE CREEK CRUISE. Saturday. FMI Ken Espersen 645-8463.

APRIL (Cont). CANOE CALENDAR (Cont).

27 MISSISSIPPI CRUISE. Saturday. Fast Pace. See Article in April HUT!. FMI Bob Brown 432-7557.

27 or 28 TWIN PORTS WHITEWATER EXPERIENCE. Temperence, Kettle, St. Louis or other rivers. Class III river experience required. Location depends on water levels. FMI David Spencer (218) 624-3413.

27-28 NORTHWOODS AUDUBON CENTER BASIC FLATWATER TECHNIQUES. $45/participant. FMI: Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, MN 55072 (612) 245-2648.

30 HUT WRITING MEETING, Come and contribute your ideas for HUT. Everyone and all inputed wanted!! 7:00 p.m. at John Wexler's house. 5341 South Harriet Avenue. FMI call John at 827-6693.

MAY

1 MONTHLY DIRECTORS MEETING. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. All members welcome. Steve Stedman's 12049 Jefferson St. NE Blaine, MN FMI Al at 778-8525.

3 BEGINNING WHITEWATER IN POOL SESSION, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Oxford Community Pool, 1 block south of I-94 on Lexington at Inglehardt Ave. in St. Paul. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

3-5 CRUISE TO THE ROARING STONEY RIVER, and exploratory Mystery River. Class III and IV whitewater. FMI John Wexler 827-6693.

4 NORTH FORK OF CROW RIVER. Saturday. Hanover to Dayton. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

4-5 BEGINNING WHITEWATER FLATWATER PORTION, Location to be announced at April 16 Rapids Riders meeting at EMS Lob Pine. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

4-5 NORTHWOODS AUDUBON CENTER BASIC WHITEWATER TECHNIQUES. $45/participant. FMI: Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone MN 55072 (612) 245-2648.

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12 TWIN PORTS FLATWATER SLALOM COURSE. Billings Park on St. Louis River. 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for novice and expert alike. FMI Dean McCall (715) 394-2866 or Byron Selbude (715) 392-6350.

14 BEGINNING WHITEWATER (Session I). "Path of the Paddle" movies and additional orientation at the St. Paul Student Center, U of M St. Paul Campus. 7:00-10:00 p.m. Anyone Welcome. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

17-19 TWIN PORTS UPPER MISSISSIPPI WEEKEND. Flatwater and Class I rapids. Gardner Ellis trip leader; Leave 6:00 p.m. Friday camp Lake Itasca; camp on river Saturday return to Duluth 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Reserve spot one week in advance. Call Gardner (218) 728-5304.

17-19 MCA CANOE SCHOOL WEEKEND - Beginning Whitewater and Efficient Paddling. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

18-19 ST. CROIX RIVER CRUISE. Saturday and Sunday. FMI Jim Robinson 588-5402.

19 JENSEN HANDICAP. Saturday. FMI Karl Ketter. 636-8116.

22 SOLO NIGHT. Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. Lake Nokomis. Picnic Supper. FMI Bob Brown 432-7557.

24-25 BOIS BRULE RIVER. Saturday and Sunday. Other rivers as levels permit. FMI Burt Levy 729-8874.

28 HUT WRITING MEETING, Come and contribute your ideas for HUT. Everyone and all inputed wanted!! 7:00 p.m. at John Wexler's house. 5341 South Harriet Avenue. FMI call John at 827-6693.

5/31-6/2 BEGINNING WHITEWATER (Session I) Final river sessions on the St. Louis and Kettle Rivers. Camp at Banning State Park. Graduation party at Banning Junction to follow on Sunday.

JUNE

1 GOVERNOR'S CRUISE. Saturday. Location Not Firm. FMI Al Gustavson 778-8525.

5 MONTLY DIRECTORS MEETING. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. All members welcome. Lare Strom's 993 Como Place, St. Paul FMI Al at 778-8525.

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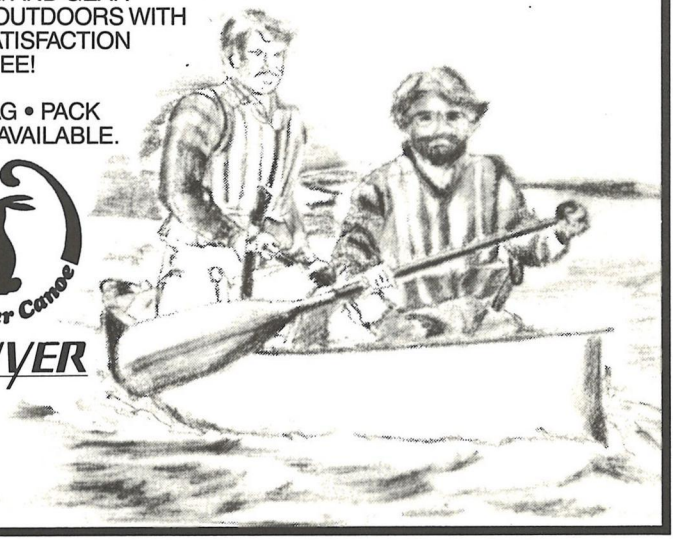
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Mad River Canoe

SAWYER



CRUISIN' ALONG

WHERE WERE YOU?

The 1984 season had many cruises. Unfortunately there were few participants. As Cruising Director, I wonder why so few people come out for scheduled events. Perhaps one of the reasons is a lack of understanding as to what a cruise is and what is involved. A cruise is just a group of people getting together to canoe on a river.

The MCA provides information on upcoming cruises. The responsibility for organizing a cruise rests with the cruise leader.

Day cruises usually involve little in the way of planning: where to meet, put-in and take-out points, where to stop for lunch, informing participants of skill level required, and organizing shuttles. If a cruise leader needs help in any of these areas, the MCA Cruising Director is available to assist.

Two or three day cruises require the same basic planning as one day trips, but have additional items such as camping area selection and choosing whether to canoe camp or shuttle each day.

Participants are responsible for providing their own equipment and honestly evaluating their skill levels. The shuttle is organized among the drivers.

The MCA serves only as an information source and assumes no responsibility or liability for anyone's safety.

The 1985 Cruising Calendar is already looking impressive. Other cruises are pending, and dates may change. See the HUT! calendar each month for additions or last minute changes. As each cruise approaches, an information article will appear in HUT! telling about the cruise. Contact the listed leader if you plan to join the cruise.

It is helpful for a weekend cruise if you contact the leader by the Thursday night before that trip is scheduled. If you try to call them Friday night, they will probably have already left to set up camp for the weekend. For a one-day trip, you should call the leader no later than Friday night.

If there is a cruise you wish to lead, or any suggestions for improving our cruises and cruise schedule, contact me at (612) 588-5402.

Whitewater cruises are scheduled by the Rapid Riders Cruising Director. For more information on whitewater cruises, contact John Wexler at (612) 827-6693, and he can get you in contact with the cruise director.

One final point: Everyone who leads a cruise or writes a trip report for HUT! has a chance to win a prize. Plan now to lead a cruise and be the one who keeps the Cruising Director from winning a prize. — **Jim Robinson, Cruising Director**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27. MISSISSIPPI CRUISE.

(See Article)

Woodlands along the Rum River are predominantly hardwood—oak, elm, ash, maple, willow—with only an occasional pine to remind the river traveler of the pine stands of earlier years.

Streams and Rivers of Minnesota — Tom Waters.

CONSERVATION

THE ECOLOGIST'S NICHE

All around us nature is changing. Often these changes occur slowly, too slowly for us to realize they are happening. Eventually, if man does not disturb the processes of nature, the changes will stop and a relatively stable community of life will be present. This orderly and progressive change from one community to another is called "succession." Succession occurs in all types of habitat: lakes, streams, forests, prairies, deserts, tundra, even your backyard. Just don't mow the lawn for a month in the summer and see the changes that will occur. Succession is not always that fast, though. Changes in other environments, such as desert or tundra, make take decades, or even centuries.

Let's go through an example. A lake somewhere in Minnesota used to be clear and clean. Not too many weeds were present. Over time nutrients came into the lake, some from falling leaves in autumn, some from a small stream that flows into the lake, some from the dead parts of animals and plants that lived in the lake. More and more things can grow in the lake now, fed by the nutrients now present in the lake. These too then contribute to the nutrient build-up when they die and settle to the bottom. Eventually the lake begins to fill in. The lake becomes so shallow that weeds cover the entire surface of the water in the summer. The marsh continues to fill in. Eventually it becomes so shallow that it may dry up in the heat of the summer months and not hold water until the next spring. Filling in continues. The temporary pond fills so completely that it becomes more like dry land and less like a wetland. Trees and shrubs begin to grow where once there were water lilies. The lake has gone through several stages of succession. It was a lake, then a marsh, then a small pond, then a temporary pond, then dry land. But succession does not stop here. Now the terrestrial community also begins to go through successional changes.

This process of aquatic succession would take hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. The process started at the end of the last ice age when many of our lakes were formed, and continues to this day. And we still have thousands of lakes left.

Man has the ability to accelerate or retard the processes of succession. In our aquatic example, man may choose to fill in a marsh, thereby accelerating to the dry land stage. Or he may choose to dredge out a lake, thereby setting the clock back on succession. There are many more examples.

Succession is a long and dynamic process. A complete discussion of it includes elements from all the areas of ecology. Any number of factors can affect the way succession proceeds. It may be accelerated, or it may be slowed down, but it will always continue. — **John Nosek, Conservation Director**

The mean discharge at the mouth of the Crow Wing River is about 1,000 cubic feet per second; of this, the Shell contributes an average of 250, Leaf River about 150, Long Prairie River 200, and Gull River 100.

Streams and Rivers of Minnesota — Tom Waters.

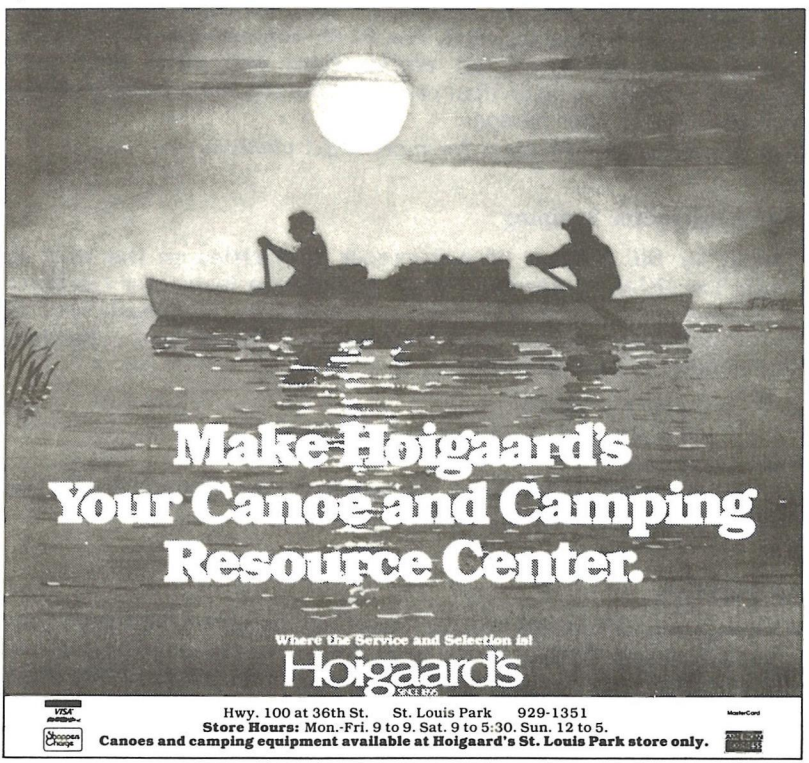
CONSERVATION NOTES

As of December 1984, a record 629,291 watercraft were registered in Minnesota. The total breaks down as follows: 473,468 motorboats, 128,361 canoes, 25,579 sailboats and 1,883 rowboats.

Minnesota is expected to hold its place as one of the top states for boat registrations, along with Michigan and California. Minnesota's per capita boat registration, however, should once again top the nation with one boat for every 6.5 persons.

DNR officials urge owners to register their boats early rather than wait for the spring rush. Canoes must be registered.

The Iowa Congress will be considering a bill this year that will essentially block public use of many streams and rivers. This bill was proposed in response to the concerns of farmers that fences are being cut and other abuses are being committed by recreational users. A better alternative to legislation might be cooperation on the part of recreationists. Respect the rights of the landowners. Don't cut fences or damage property. If you need to cross private lands, it might be a good idea to get permission before you start out. A little consideration can go a long way. Let's all be certain that our behavior on the waters is not the reason for restrictive legislation. — **John Nosek, Conservation Director**



The following are the classes we currently have planned for this year's upcoming paddling season. Please read the general section and class descriptions very carefully. I will be happy to answer your questions at any time, but would prefer to receive calls between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. You can reach me at 729-8874. Thanks, hope to see you on the river in '85. — **Burt Levy, Safety & Education**

General Information on MCA Classes:

- —You must be a current MCA member.
- —Your boat must be currently registered.
- —All paddlers must have appropriate PFD's; decked boaters must also have helmets.
- —For day classes, bring: snacks and lunch, canteen, proper clothing for projected weather, a change of clothes (in case you get wetter than anticipated), and sunscreen.
- —Any additional special gear is detailed in the class descriptions.
- —Unless otherwise noted, you will be responsible for providing your own boats, transportation, shuttles (organized by instructors), camping gear, and food.
- —A class registration form and release must be completed by all participants for each class attended. Send all registrations to: Burt Levy, c/o Graphic Images, P.O. Box 6149, Minneapolis, MN 55406.
- —Unless otherwise noted, all registrations and class fees must be received by mail no later than one week before the scheduled class.
- —All class fees are per person.

Boats are available for $20 extra for most MCA classes.

Whitewater Instructor Training

Taught by Bill Kallner of Whitewater Specialties on the Wolf River, specifically for MCA. American Canoe Association Instructor Certification will be earned upon successful course completion. Emphasis will be on whitewater paddling, rescue, and instructional techniques. Participants must be competent Class III paddlers.

Dates:	April 12, 13, 14
Fee:	$110.00 + ACA membership ($25.00)
Size limit:	12 people
Note:	All participants must contact Burt Levy (612/729-8874) before registering for this course.

Efficient Paddling

This class has something to offer most anyone, from beginners to well-seasoned paddlers who thought that the J-stroke was the only way to control their canoe's direction. Switch paddling technique as pioneered by MCA'ers will be the main emphasis. Other topics will include basic safety, boat trim, paddle selection, and boat control. Upon completion of this class, you will be amazed at how effortlessly you can move across the water in your canoe. This course will be offered three times:

SESSION I: **Beginning Whitewater—Canoe/Kayak**

This session will be part of the Canoe School Weekend at St. Croix State Park on May 17, 18 & 19. Lodging and food will be included in this session. Additional details and maps will be printed in upcoming issues of HUT! Cost will be $20.00. You can arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning. Saturday will be spent on the river learning the various techniques.

April 9	Classroom instruction: introduction, personal gear, general orientation, and slides. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Place to be announced.
May 3	Pool session at Oxford Pool, one block south of I-94 on Lexington Avenue at Inglehart Avenue, St. Paul. 6:30-9:00 p.m.
May 4 & 5	Quietwater paddling sessions and classroom work and movies. Place and exact times to be announced; sessions will be about six hours per day.
May 14	"Path of the Paddle" movies and additional orientation at the St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. 7:00-10:00 p.m.
May 17-19	River sessions at St. Croix State Park as part of the MCA Canoe School Weekend. Lodging and food will be included.
May 25-27	Optional cruise/class on the Bois Brule River, Wisconsin.
May 31-June 2	Final river sessions on the St. Louis and Kettle Rivers. Camp at Banning State Park. Graduation party at Banning Junction to follow on Sunday.
Fee	$60.00 for complete course
Size limit	30 students—canoe 10 students—kayak
Coordinators	Burt Levy, 612/729-8874 Bek Kragh, 612/929-9454
Registration deadline	March 30 (no cancellations will be allowed after this date)

MORE CANOE CLASSES

June	
8	EFFICIENT PADDLING (Session II)
9	REPAIR CLINIC (Session I)
22, 23	RIVER RESCUE (Session I)
July	
11, 16, 18, 23, 25	BEGINNING WHITEWATER (Session II)
13	EFFICIENT PADDLING (Session III)
14	ADVANCED EFFICIENT PADDLING
17	REPAIR CLINIC (Session II)
27	BEGINNING WHITEWATER (Session II) River Session
August	
3, 4	BEGINNING WHITEWATER (Session II) River Sessions
17, 18	RIVER RESCUE (Session II)
13, 15, 20 22	ESKIMO ROLLING (Summer)

MCA CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

All information is for instructors use only and will remain confidential.

Class title_____ Session number_____

Class dates_____

Name_____ Age____ Sex____

Address_____ City/State/Zip_____

Phone_____(home) _____(work)

Emergency contact: Name_____ Phone_____

Are you supplying your own boat? ___ Yes ___ No Is it currently registered? ___ Yes ___ No Number of PFD's ____ Paddles ____
If a tandem canoe, do you have a class partner? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, name_____

If you have a medical condition we should be aware of (such as heart condition, high blood pressure, diabetes, epilepsy, acute allergies, etc.), please explain: _____

Skill Levels: Please check the highest level you feel competent at.

PADDLING:
- ___ No experience
- ___ Lakes
- ___ Easy rivers/moving quietwater
- ___ Mild rapids/Class I
- ___ Intermediate rapids/Class II
- ___ Advanced rapids/Class III
- ___ Expert rapids/Class IV-V

SWIMMING:
- ___ Strong
- ___ Moderate
- ___ Weak
- ___ Non-swimmer

Other related experience or instruction you have had, and general comments: _____

_____

Note: All students under 18 years of age must have a parent or approved guardian participating in the same class.

Liability Release

The MCA and the Rapid Riders Chapter always strive to make your boating experience as enjoyable and safe as possible. However, some element of risk always exists in canoeing, kayaking, and other water activities. I do hereby recognize this risk and agree to hold harmless the Minnesota Canoe Association, its outing organizers, river/trip leaders, and instructors from liability for any personal loss or injury which I may incur, and do hereby waive any remedy I may have in law or equity. This liability waiver is in effect while in transit to and from any MCA event, and while participating in any MCA outing.

Signature_____ Date_____

BUILDING

BUILDER'S CORNER

One of the first customers for our new West System epoxy resin proved that the West procedure isn't foolproof. But in all fairness to the West System products, I have to say that you almost need to go looking for the kind of trouble that this fellow got himself into.

The West System, in case you haven't seen one of my short demonstrations, simplifies the mixing process by means of two pumps—one for resin and one for hardener. The hardener pump is adjusted to squeeze out one-fifth as much material as the resin pump. Equal strokes of the two pumps should give a 5 to 1 mix of resin to hardener.

My friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, was having some trouble getting the hardener pump to work. After examining it, he removed an interior collar. That got the pump to working, but now it worked too well. He was using a mixture much richer than the recommended 5 to 1 mix.

He discovered this when his lady friend, who had been doing the mixing, went home. The hardener, which should have been enough for the whole boat, was used up in glassing just the outside.

His mistake was in removing the interior collar. That collar is what restricts the stroke on the hardener pump to one-fifth of the resin pump.

The pumps come with instructions. Read them. Prime both pumps as recommended, catching the resin and hardener in separate clean containers. Return the material to its proper container after priming and then—again into separate containers—pump a full stroke from each one. Measure the amounts to make sure that you're getting five parts resin per stroke to one part hardener. Once you've established that the pumps are accurate, you're ready to start glassing.

Where my friend got into trouble may have been in trying to pump hardener when it was too cold. Epoxy resin will set up under a wider range of temperature conditions than does polyester resin, but in cold weather it can be stiff and hard to pump. Again, read the directions. They warn about this.

My friend's boat cured fine using the richer mix, and now the pump is fixed. But I had to send him another can of hardener to glass the inside of his boat. — **Bob Brown, Building Director**

Meanwhile, that Indian birch remained for me the template, the standard, the prototype canoe, with its apparently inevitable design, conceived in the wilderness who knows how many hundreds of years ago and valid into the technological present. I thought of it as a basic shape, like a cone or a cube, immutable, inviable, and I would never have thought to, or tried to, alter it, not even with written permission from Hiawatha. I go into this only to suggest the extent to which the rafters of my mind were shaken, although the birch-bark canoe still hangs there, when I went in early spring . . . to observe the Potomac Highland and Middle States Wildwater canoeing championships.

"Reading the River" in Pieces of the Frame — John McPhee



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ASK THE EXPERTS FROM: * Sawyer
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Feat

Saturday April 20 **9 a.m.-9**

11:30 **Minnesota's Designated Canoe Routes** with Minnesota Canoe Asso
1:30 **Mississippi River Canoe Challenge** with Verlen Kruger and Valerie
3:30 **Canoeing Alaska's Noatak River** with Woodswoman
4:30 **Easy and Efficient Canoe Paddling** with Harry Roberts
6:30 **Equiping For Canoe Tripping** with Cliff Jacobson
7:30 **28,000 Mile Ultimate Canoe Challenge** with Verlen Kruger

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Safety, Canoeing in the
and Info., Cruising the

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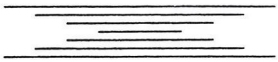
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)AY AND SUNDAY APRIL 20-21

AT

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ME IMPROVEMENT BUILDING



Sunday 11 - 8

vies • Demonstrations • Seminars

cts of Canoeing & Kayaking

Canoe Co. * Old Town Canoe Co. * Wabash Valley Canoe Co. * Mad
quaterra Kayaks * BWCA Outfitters * Woodswoman * Minnesota Canoe
apid Riders * Cascaders * Sierra Club * Bending Branches, Clement,
nd

uring: **VERLEN KRUGER**

p.m.
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Fons

Sunday April 21 **11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

12:00 **Whitewater Rivers In Northern Minnesota** with Cascaders
1:30 **28,000 Mile Ultimate Canoe Challenge** with Verlen Kruger
3:00 **B.W.C.A. and Lake Superior Kayak Touring** with Andy Knapp
4:30 **Family Canoe Tripping** with Minnesota Canoe Association
6:30 **Mississippi River Canoe Challenge** with Valerie Fons and Verlen Kruger

ation on Canoe Safety, Canoe and Kayak Design, Paddling with
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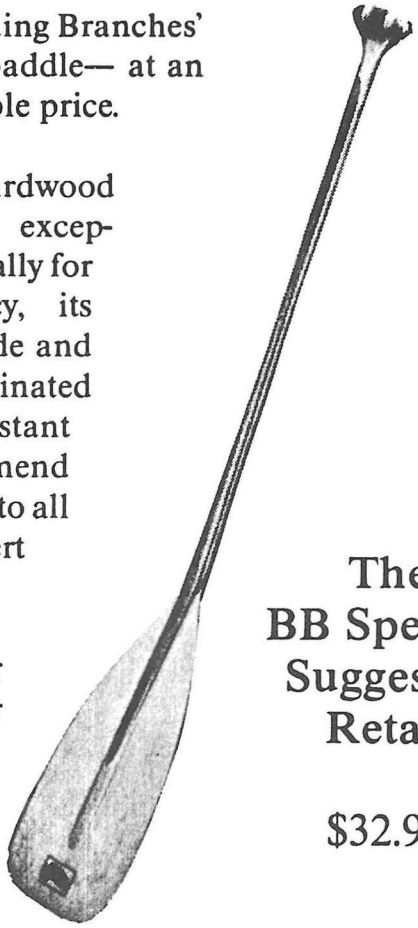
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I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life . . . .

Where I Lived, and What I Lived For — Henry David Thoreau

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715-757-3811

DEAR MCA:

DEAR MCA

This letter concerns the recent article in March 1985 HUT!, regarding canoe license money, written by Holace Nelson.

After reviewing the article I was concerned that the wrong conclusion may be drawn . . . that canoeists pay but do not receive adequate funding levels. I felt it was important to follow up with a clarification of the funding situation.

First, there IS a correlation between canoe license fees and the Canoe and Boating Route Program funding. The funding that comes from canoe licensing does go to the state general fund. However, the DNR submits budget requests to reclaim some of the funds every two years. The legislature determines the amount of funding the DNR should receive for canoeing. From the general fund that amount is usually based on the current financial condition of the State of Minnesota as well as program needs. Nonetheless, funds are appropriated back to the canoe program and in this regard there is a correlation.

Salary for personnel, and other administrative costs, are a small fraction of the program budget. Although Canoe and Boating Route Program activities are under the supervision of each Regional Trails and Waterways Coordinator (there is one in each DNR region of the state) this canoeing program does not pay for the salary of these people. The program provides for temporary personnel which serve to maintain canoeing conditions on the 19 rivers. The crews are labor oriented and travel the rivers frequently to remove snags, clean up recreation sites, install signs, and mark hazards. Salary costs go directly to maintaining the river resource.

One of the reasons that the Canoe and Boating Routes Program has been able to function at lower funding levels is because we strive to enter into cooperative agreements with local units of government and utility corporations for use of their lands. Mr. Nelson is correct in stating that this method is financially painless to the state. But there are cases where land purchase is necessary to provide for new campsites, access points or portages. For these situations the state legislature has appropriated additional funds for land acquisition. These funds, provided through the sale of state bonds, are in addition to canoe license money. In 1977 the appropriation exceeded $1.7 million. In 1981 the appropriation was $400,000 and in 1983, another $250,000 was appropriated. These funds are shared with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program and can also be used for the purchase of scenic easements on the designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. In this regard, the rivers benefit through additional river protection, and the canoeists benefit by being provided with a more enjoyable canoe outing.

In addition to canoe license (general fund) money and land acquisition funding, the legislature has also provided development funding for establishing recreation sites on the 19 rivers. These funds, also provided through sale of state bonds, totalled $37,000 in 1981 and another $50,000 in 1983.

On the surface it would appear that the canoeist is being short changed a bit because not all the canoe license money is directed back to the activity. But this is not the case. With only a dedicated account (all license money returning to the activity) it would be much more difficult to provide facilities for canoeists. The other sources of funds available to the program permit the DNR to provide for all aspects of the canoeing activity.

Last year the Minnesota Canoe Association was instrumental in organizing a successful Governor's Family Canoe Day. As a result of those efforts, and because of the Governor's enthusiasm for canoeing, we are

receiving support for an increase in the budget for the Canoe and Boating Routes Program. If approved by the legislature, I am confident that this increase will help to provide the canoeist with even better canoeing experiences on Minnesota rivers.

I hope this letter helps to clarify the canoe license money situation. Believe me, your canoe license fee is not "down the drain" or "over the dam."

I wish to thank you and members of the Minnesota Canoe Association for continued interest in working together to further the sport of canoeing. **— Steven A. Kirch, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

DEAR MCA:

It is about time that the MCA directors and members at large notice the paddlers who race. Over the years the racers have always been there contributing and gaining knowledge, support, information, encouragement to all other canoers. A few racers are visible in the MCA and have performed for and cooperated with members and clubs since the racers founded the MCA in 1961 (in the front of a paint store on 36th and Grand South). Yet, today few (less than 70%) racers are members of the MCA which is searching for the "general canoers."

The MCA is not a club of generalists. It is an association of special interests all related by their interest in the canoe. Each and every special interest should be noticed, encouraged and promoted. In return the specialists (racers, white water, voyageurs, cruisers, etc.) form the base of a complete canoe organization. As the base grows all benefit as the association of canoers gains the strength to face conflicting and challenging issues. Most importantly a complete canoe group turns none away as there is surely a canoe to fit each of us. — **Anonymous**

DEAR MCA:

Re: 1985 Mississippi River Canoe Classic

Ketter Canoeing would like to invite the MCA to participate in the 8th Annual Mississippi River Canoe Classic and Junior Classics in 1985. We feel that increased MCA support and participation would benefit both the "largest regional canoe organization" as well as the most important single Minnesota canoeing event. More than 100 racers are now preparing for the events. MCA members would surely enjoy observing and participating in one of the most challenging forms of canoeing.

There are three areas you could assist us in this year's Classic:

(1) Volunteer workers to administer and conduct the races as the scope of the event grows (e.g. car drivers, refreshments, etc.).

(2) Promote spectator interest among members and people not as familiar with canoeing.

(3) Financial aid is always important to this activity. Hopefully contacts of the MCA can be found to contribute to the events.

The racers who attend are guests. Help us put on the best event possible so Minnesota can continue to be the canoe capital. Thank you. — **Karl N. Ketter**

DEAR MCA:

As a member of the MCA, I have some observations, some concerns, and some recommendations that I wish to put before the Board. First, the observations.

DEAR MCA (Cont.)

In January I attended the USCA annual meeting in Winona. I was very surprised to find that the USCA is much smaller than the MCA and, outside of their race program, contribute very little to the sport of canoeing. They are not the best organized nor the most cohesive group I've ever seen, and it appears their race program is successful in spite of their organization, not because of it. Their contribution to canoe design, because of their rules, has been detrimental.

I have not been able to get a membership count of the ACA, but I have been told that they, too, are smaller than the MCA. I have little desire to join the ACA when I view their limited offerings.

This brings us to the MCA. We are, I firmly believe, the premier canoe organization in this country. Our wide range of activities and recognized expertise is unsurpassed. Our recent Builders Show, which is unique, was once again an overwhelming success, as was the Whitewater Expo the week before. The spring and fall Solo Paddle-in nights have been met with great response from the local canoe suppliers and the public alike. After two years, the Governor's Cruise has become a Minnesota annual event.

Which brings me to the concerns. If the goal of the MCA is to maintain a "low profile," we certainly have achieved it! As the originators, organizers and supporters of the Governor's Cruise, the MCA has not even had its name printed in the paper in the two years it has been going on. Last year, Al had his picture in the paper, but no word that he was Vice President of the MCA. The Governor and the Park Service got all of the credit.

The only printed announcement of the Building Show, outside of HUT!, was the brief notice in the event section of the Star and Tribune the week before the show.

In the two years that I have been getting CANOE magazine, the only thing I have seen of the MCA was on Gene Jensen's T-shirt. Each year, Wooden Canoe Heritage Association has an announcement of their annual meeting with a description of who they are, what they do and how to contact them. With a staff photographer in Minneapolis and a staff writer in Ely, one would think we could do better.

It has been almost three years since the last article on canoe building was done in the Star and Tribune. If we in fact are the premier canoe organization in the country, that fact has escaped the media, both local and national.

Which brings me to the recommendations. I realize that Warren is in charge of our public relations, but I would like to see the Board of Directors, as a whole, step up to the challenge of projecting the image of the MCA. I feel the Board should contact the Governor's PR staff and let them know in no uncertain terms that without recognition for services rendered, we will withdraw our support for this activity. I feel we have been slighted, and I for one am upset about it.

I feel that every week we should have a notice in both area newspapers announcing upcoming activities for the MCA, with a contact person for more information.

We should establish contacts with both papers to cover subjects of interest to the sports public and extend invitations to them to cover those activities of interest.

An event of the magnitude of the annual Building Show and/or the Solo Paddle-in warrants coverage on a large scale like CANOE magazine. This year we had two people drive in from Ohio and one fly in from Texas just to attend. I have seen articles of far less importance and general interest in

CANOE. To achieve any of these things, Warren will need the full support and participation of the Board.

In closing, I would like to remind you all that the single largest incentive for a new member to join the MCA is our reputation and expertise in wood strip canoe building. Each building demonstration or feature article on building has been followed by a significant increase in new memberships. Once we have them, we hope to keep them by offering a wide range of activities to hold their interest. We cannot reach our full potential as an organization if we continue to be the best kept secret in canoeing.

Thank you very much for your time and patience. — **Bruce Kunz**

JUNE 6-9 MCA CANOE CONVENTION
(See Article)



THE EVILS OF THE "IN" GROUP

When I first received the assignment to write this article, my heart simply wasn't in it. "After all," I thought to myself, "the 'in' group in the MCA isn't evil. It's just 'in'."

Problem is, once you've started thinking along those lines, you've also got to think of the "out" group. Are they really "out" or simply "non-inners"? Then you've also got to think, "Do the 'outers' give a damn one way or the other anyway?"

Having gotten that far, I was hooked! More times than not I've been an "outie" and would have a hell of a lot rather been an "innie."

So there you have it. If one person in the MCA would like to be a member of the so-called "in" group and can't figure out how to make it, or hasn't been accepted, then the "in" group if not really evil is at least unfair.

So, the article would have to do one of two things. Take a shot at breaking up the "in" group, or explain just how to become a member in good standing of that particular august body.

The first would be pretty stupid. After all "innies" pretty much run the MCA. They're the workers. So you don't take a shot at your labor force. (By the way, that's the key. I'll get back to that in a second.)

First, and without naming any names, let's take a look at the "in" group as it presently exists. Say, come to think of it, one hell of a lot of MCA'ers might not even know there is an "in" group. Well, believe me, there is. There is in any well-run group such as ours. And the MCA is well-run, though there are those who would disagree with marked violence and candor.

The "in" group first of all is pretty easy to find. Take a look at the Board of Directors, Committee Members and Trip Leaders and you'll have a pretty good idea of who they are. You'll pick up a few more by regular reading of HUT! Their names keep cropping up as regular performers at one function or another. They may not be currently holding office or a representative job. But you can be sure they either have or will in the future.

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Since it's pretty stupid to try to "beat" any "in" group, you'll have to get on the band wagon.

Now all this presupposes you give a damn. And since you've managed to read this far, I can only suppose you do. Supposing a little further, you didn't join the MCA just to get a copy of the building plans and receive HUT! once a month. No, for the moment, I'm going to assume you joined the MCA for a very normal reason—to become a member of an active canoe organization. I'm also going to assume you aren't very pleased with what you have found as far as becoming a personal friend of a lot of other canoeists.

Now I can't speak for any other members of the group. I haven't been a member of the MCA that long myself. But I can tell you how I got in and you can take it from there.

First of all I moved to Minnesota. Now as many of you know, just finding the Minnesota Canoe Association isn't the easiest job. I didn't even know there was such an animal until one day while passing along the aisles of one of our larger outfitters I chanced into a pile of small books ("chanced" is a fancy way of saying I knocked the damned things all over the floor). Naturally, I picked 'em up and of course found what they were, and soon after sent in an application. Shortly after I received a rather lengthy questionnaire which unfortunately I filled in honestly and to the best of my ability. As I remember, I also offered to work for the club in any way I could—a heinous error since I've found the MCA is not a bit shy about taking you up on such an offer.

The next thing I did was attend an "event." Now any event won't do it. The innest members of the "in" group are the pro racers and the whitewater crowd. Quite frankly I have the greatest admiration for the pro racers, but while the mind is willing, the body is infirm so I chose the whitewater bunch.

Unfortunately at the time I didn't know the difference between Hell's Gate (Class 4 and 5) and Shelldrake (Class 2) rapids. I suppose the names should have tipped me off, but naive as I was I simply thought that rapids namers were like ski run namers. The Jaws of Death on a ski run would scarcely send you running to the lodge but had I known about Hell's Gate I would have promptly climbed into the sack, assumed the pre-natal position and turned the electric blanket up to nine. But I didn't. So I went. Or I should say Barbara and I went.

Now I'm not suggesting you run out and risk life and limb just to become a member of the "in" group. I would suggest a more relaxed approach—like attending classes. Had I known about the whitewater seminars I could have stalled off my Hell's Gate trip—for years. Perhaps indefinitely. But, at the time, I didn't know any better so we showed up at the appointed hour. That was another mistake since the leader didn't show up for two and a half hours. (In all honesty I must admit MCA trips usually go off like a starter's gun. Hell's Gate usually doesn't, but that's an "in" joke.)

The wait did, however, give us a chance to meet the assembled crowd. They seemed nice enough. Of course much of the conversation we couldn't understand. Terms like "draw" and "pry" and "crossover" kept cropping up but I assumed they had some reference to club dues or local school patrol officers.

Then the moment came! Our leader arrived! Amid, I might add, jeers and catcalls. Not from us of course. Aspirants never act in an "in" manner. We jeered inside.

As a group we entered the river Kettle and paddled all the way to the other side—some 30 yards where we proceeded to do the Blueberry shuffle. This is a half walk-crawl maneuver through the brambles to a ledge overlooking Blueberry Slide. Our leader told us many things. Mostly about how many people had entered the gates of Hell never again to be seen or heard from by loved ones waiting anxiously below. He scared Hell into or out of us depending on your frame of reference. He also told us we'd have to kneel in the canoe. We'd never knelt in a canoe. It was a very frightening experience. I wondered how it would be possible to collapse and fall when I was already down as far as I could get!

But, I'm making a short story long. We made it, obviously. And, after the terror had worn off, even had fun. So the next time there was a whitewater event, we showed up. That time we were invited to sup with the assembled group. Actually, we weren't exactly invited, we followed them after it was all over and walked into the restaurant where they stopped. They didn't have a chance.

Actually, it wasn't very hard. Once the "newness" had worn off we found they were very friendly people. So we kept turning up and eventually they just got used to seeing us around.

Little did I know that the trap had been set and baited!

Several weeks later, as the summer was on the wane, I received a phone call. A young and attractive sounding young lady very sweetly informed me I had been nominated for a position on the Board of Directors.

Ah! Sweetness and bliss! Oh, joy and happiness! I'd been discovered. I was about to be invited into the exalted ranks of the "innest" of the inner

sanctum. Had I but listened a little more intently, I would have heard the distant but very distinct sound of steel jaws snapping shut!

And I won! Not by a landslide you understand. Very few of the "outies" really know very much about the "innies" except what they read about them in HUT!s, and after all the "innies" write the candidates' profiles.

I attended my first Board meeting.

"I'd like to appoint you to the Publications Board," the President announced almost before the gavel had bounced thrice. I distinctly caught the odor of a well-expired rodent.

"Just what," I inquired sweetly, "should I do as a member of the Publications Committee?"

"Oh," he answered, face alight with innocence, "you might write something now and then." The odor of dead rat got stronger.

So here I sit. The guy who used to have this job is out canoeing. The temperature right now is 97 degrees. It is Sunday. The Editor just called. "How come your copy is late?" he wants to know.

I told him, "Because it's 97 goddamned degrees in the shade, that's why my copy's late. Because it's Sunday and I'd rather be out canoeing, or swimming, or anything but sitting in front of this goddamned typewriter." But I am a member of the "in" group. I've got a responsibility. I'm supposed to try and get more of the "outies" to become "innies." And it's tough because being an "innie" has darned few rewards. There are no "thank you's". There are no "good job's" or "well done's". What you do get is some guy calling up to bitch because his HUT! was late again this month. Or you've got to attend another Board meeting and you know the budget is coming up and that means a meeting until one or two in the morning and you've got to be at the office at eight. But somehow, you've got to convince the "outies" to become "innies" because the job to be done is much bigger than the number of people available.

So if you don't shy at the sound of steel traps, and if the smell of dead mice doesn't offend you overtly, get involved. Believe me—the "innies" desperately need more active "outies." — **Buz Fawcett**

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred, and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father. . . .

The rivers are our brother, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother.

Chief Seattle
Chief of the Suquamish Tribe

(Taken from a speech delivered in 1854 to mark the transferral of ancestral Indian lands to the United States Government)

ASK MCA

Have questions about where to go, what to pack, building, paddling, or staying afloat? Send them to: Ask MCA, Minnesota Canoe Association, Box 14207 University Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

Q: I'm planning a couple of trips to the BWCAW this season—one in the spring and one in the fall. Looking at a Fisher map, how can you tell which streams will be canoeable during low water?

A: The easiest and most honest answer is "You can't." The Fisher maps themselves carry a disclaimer: "This map is not intended for navigational use . . . ."

"The question of marking which streams are open and which aren't is one that doesn't come up very often," says Earl Fisher, owner of the map company. "Most people just stay to the well traveled routes."

But since map reading, like navigation, is more an art than a science, there are things that can help one make a good guess, our MCA wilderness experts tell us.

First of all, check the elevation of the lakes that a stream connects. (The newer Fisher maps designate elevation with a number on each lake.) If the elevation between two lakes is very different, you can be pretty sure the stream won't be canoeable.

A gradual change of elevation between lakes, however, doesn't guarantee that a route is canoeable. Even flat streams can be very choked with trees, beaver dams, rocks, etc. The key then is to check surrounding lakes to determine the drainage. If a large lake drains into the river, or if many small lakes drain into a stream which empties into a large lake, chances are the stream will be canoeable year round. The Frost River is a good example.

Better than Fisher maps for determining drainage are the U.S. Geological topographical maps available at many camping stores and outfitters.

Since water levels can fluctuate rapidly, especially in regions with sandy soils, you may want to check with the U.S. Forest Service a week or several days before your trip. A word of caution: local knowledge is not infallible.

One final point from our experts concerning Fisher maps: Due to government funding cutbacks in recent years, many portages that used to be maintained are no longer marked, but they can still be found. If you are planning a trip into a remote area, you may want to check on an older map.

Q: Is there an accurate water level gauge on Minnehaha Creek? If not, is there another way to get water level information?

A: The DNR does not keep a water level gauge on Minnehaha Creek and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board refers calls on this subject to E. A. Hickok and Associates, the engineering firm that manages the Minnehaha watershed district.

According to Jim Mahady, an engineer with Hickok, the best indicator of Minnehaha's canoeability is the amount of water flowing out of Lake Minnetonka over the dam at Gray's Bay.

In the spring when water flows at 150 to 175 cubic feet per second (cfs), the entire creek is easily canoeable. At 75 cfs, says Mahady, you have to pick your stretches. When the flow drops to 50 cfs late in the summer, you are probably better off not trying.

Information on current water levels can be obtained by calling Hickok at (612) 473-4224.

TRADING POST

Free personal ads to MCA members

The Trading Post is a free service for MCA members only. Members may place up to 30 words in an issue of HUT! for each canoe for sale, partner wanted, or other message. This service is not available for advertising or solicitation of commercial operations.

WANTED

Forms and/or strongback for an 18' Explorer, in good condition. Call Scott at 421-6051 evenings.

Drivers. Racers need licensed drivers for our Long Slow Days Training Runs. Weekends from March through May. Free Ford. Free Travel. See hundreds of Minnesota bridges. Call Karl at 636-8116 or Betty at 561-2208.

Space to build 18' stripper canoe in Minneapolis or St. Paul area. Call Scott Nelson at 349-1420 (w) or 871-8410 (h).

Trip leaders for one day cruises. Choose river of your choice. Show it to a few other MCA'ers. Call Jim at 588-5402.

Photos. HUT! needs photos of current and past canoe trips, cruises, races, meetings, canoes, people, etc. Black and white or color photos okay. Photos will be returned. Call John at 827-6693.

FOR SALE

Whitewater canoe—15' Coleman—$195. Call Eldon at 435-2411.

18' Sawyer square stern, **2½ h.p. Johnson** with carry bag, paddles, top carriers, portage yoke—all in great condition. $1,000 value for $600. Call Wally Clauson at 535-4569.

Prijon Special Kayak $300, 4 air bags, $15, 82" Norse paddle $50, spray skirt $10, Call Tom at 522-1141 or 373-5553.

Ski boots—Used Vibram sole cross-country ski boots for $20 or best offer. Call John at 827-6693.

MCA BUILDING SUPPLIES

For Sale: MCA resin and fiberglass cloth. Polyester resin with catalyst and wax (if required) is $13.00 per gallon. Four ounce cloth, 50 inches wide, is $2.90 per yard; 7½ ounce cheesecloth, 60 inches wide, is $4.10 per yard.

Rules for Purchase: Call ahead and schedule pick-up time. Payment must be by check or money order to Minnesota Canoe Association. **No cash. Bring a valid membership card.**

Depots:	Betty Ketter	561-2208	North Minneapolis
	Bruce Kunz	454-7207	Eagan

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP/ORDER FORM

I would like to join the MCA as a ☐ New ☐ Renewal member. Please check:

- ☐ Regular Member—1 Year . . . $ 10
- ☐ Regular Member—2 Years . . . $ 19
- ☐ Regular Member—3 Years . . . $ 27
- ☐ Supportive Member—1 Year . . $ 25
- ☐ Life Member. $100

Fill in name, address and phone number below:

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☐ If you're moving check here and fill in your new address above. The **Post Office will not forward HUT!**

Canoe Building Plans, $5.00 each (SALES TO MEMBERS ONLY)

- ☐ Woodstrip canoe building manual with Explorer and Guide plans
- ☐ BWCA Cruiser
- ☐ MCA 14' Solo
- ☐ Free Spirit (Brown)
- ☐ 17' Osprey (Zapf)
- ☐ 15'6" Solo Canoe Pirate (Brown)
- ☐ 15' Solo (Ketter)
- ☐ Griffen II Kayak (Brown)
- ☐ 18'6" 4&32 USCA Racer (Burley)
- ☐ 18'6" 3&27 Racer (Ketter)

T-Shirts — Light blue shirt with navy MCA graphic, 50/50 blend. $5.00 each, plus $1.00 postage.

Stickers — Blue on a reflectorized background, great for canoe or car. $1.00 each.

Sew-On Patches — Gold paddles over a silver canoe, $2.00 each.

To order fill in name and address above. Indicate quantity desired in each size:

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