CANOEING IN THE MIDWEST

MARCH 1978

HUT





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"HUT" is the signal said by one canoer to his partner in order that both paddlers may switch sides in unison. This practice was originated by canoe racers of Minnesota in the late 1940's with the word "HUT" first used by Eugene Jensen, who still builds and races canoes. This swift and distinctive style of paddling has since been recognized as the most effective way to move a canoe by both recreational and racing paddlers.

HUT Magazine is published monthly by the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., a non-profit organization, and is distributed to more than 1500 members and numerous friends of the MCA across the nation. Our purpose is to distribute information about canoe sports and canoe camping, to preserve and promote wild rivers, to effect conservation of canoeable waterways, and to encourage canoeing as family recreation.

Statement of Policy: The Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc., cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy of the material presented by authors of the articles in the magazine. The pages of HUT! are offered as a clearing house of information and a forum for exchange of opinions, experiences, and ideas. The individual reader must evaluate this material for himself and use it as he sees fit. Every effort is made to present material of wide interest that will be of help to the majority.

Pictures (glossies), cartoons, art work, announcements, letters, and articles of all kinds which serve to promote the purposes of the MCA are cordially invited. Contributions should be typewritten, preferably double-spaced, and should be in the hands of the editor by the 15th DAY OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH. Contributions cannot be acknowledged and will be returned – usually within eight weeks – ONLY when requested and accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Cover Photos by Dan Busch are of the First Annual Icebreaker Invitational.

president's message

Last month I suggested that you again contribute to the BWCA defense fund. If you really care about the Boundary Waters do two things. Write to our Senators. Send a check to the Friends of the Boundary Waters at Box 98, Anoka, Minnesota 55303.

Below is a list of members who participated in the Builders Show. Thank you all for your hard work and my apologies to anyone I might have omitted, due to a faulty memory.

Barb Babcook, Wayne Kurth, Bonnie Kurth, Dan Busch, Joyce Busch, Roger Hudella, Lew Miller, Dean Miller, Scott Miller, Chuck Alberg, Paul Sandager, Jim Jahnke, Bob Loring, John Wexler, Larry Johns, Russ Nelson, Curt Momnson, Jim Malek, Don Birks, Clyde Manion, Al Button, Steve Johnson, Brian Patterson, Paul Brown, Karl Ketter, Chris Berne, Darrel Foss, Bob Brown, Don Brown, Ardyth Buerosse, Roger Geis, Kathy Johnson, Roger Johnson, Betty Kettler

HUT is now being published and mailed on time. The quality and content is good. Memberships are being processed very quickly. Don't anybody disagree with the preceding three sentences unless you are a volunteer for the job.

Our Executive Secretary, Lew Miller, is preforming these duties to my satisfaction and beyond. The annual cost of all this is $3,000.00 – which I have no problem with as long as our membership is above one thousand. Unfortunately, we have just over 700 members. The Board of the MCA firmly supports the Executive Secretary position because it is working.

Now lets each go out and get a new member for this great association to which we all belong!

Tom Babcook

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8:

MCA Board Meeting at the home of Darrell Foss - 13652 Ferris Avenue, Apple Valley.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22:

Cascaders general meeting with members of the MCA 7 p.m. at Logan Park Ken Williams of Minnesota Rescue and First Aid will describe the dangers of hypothermia and explain proper first aid.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25:

Sand Creek ice-beaker cruise. We've scheduled our traditional Sand Creek ice-breaker cruise this year for March 25th, with a possible repeat March 26. if the water is good. Since ice-out is unpredictable, however, the cruise date may be changed.

Sand Creek is a quaint little stream that runs through Jordan, about 12 miles south-west of Shakopee on U.S. Highway 169. It's a good beginner's run, but wetsuits are required. Sand Creek is the first of a series of instructional cruises – we'll have instructors along to teach river technique to novices.

George Jensen (825-0711) is cruise leader. Call him for further details. It's important to let George know of your interest several weeks early, since the cruise date may be changed, depending on the spring thaw.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6:

Voyageur meeting at Jim Jahnke's home, 1804 Sargent Ave. St. Paul.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12:

MCA Board Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19:

Activity Meeting at Logan Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Cruising movies.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23:

Pestigo Wildwater Race. Midwest Wild water chapionship. Call Schuetzler.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26:

Cascaders general meeting 7 p.m. at Logan Park. Dan Murphy, program director, is trying to line up a night of spectacular and gory white-water films and slides. Call him if you know of any candidates.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 30:

Kettle River Duel Wildwater Races. Call Schutzler.

SATURDAY, MAY 20:

Minnesota River Rubberized River Raft Race.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4:

Root River Cruise.

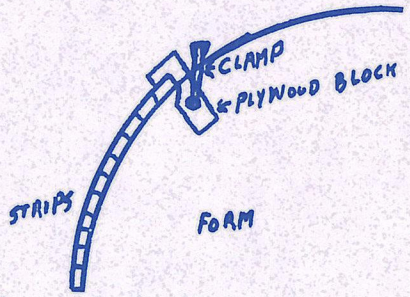
BUILDERS CORNER

By Bob Brown

First, I'd like to thank all the people that helped in putting together the Builders Show this year – you did a great job.

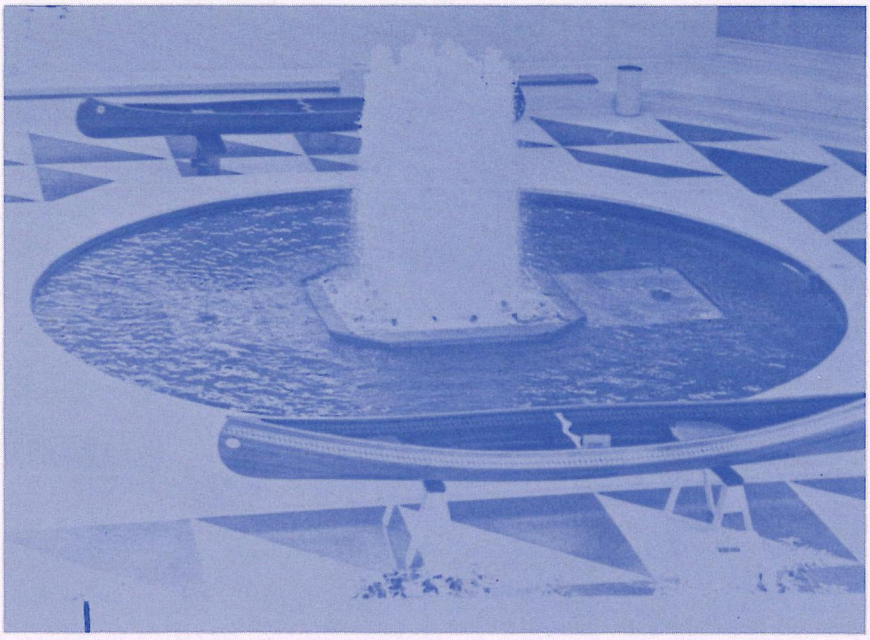
Another tip from Chuck Alberg. Chuck has invented a tool to hold strips in place on the forms, and having tried it myself, can say it really works.

Chuck uses blocks, like the one pictured, made of ¼" plywood that are clamped to each form where you need help. The strip is pushed into place and the clamp tightened.



A good book, if you want to learn more about fiberglassing is "Fiberglass Repairs" by Paul L. Petrick. One of the best sections of the book is on the uses of abrasives to get that super finish. It's printed by Cornell Maritime Press.

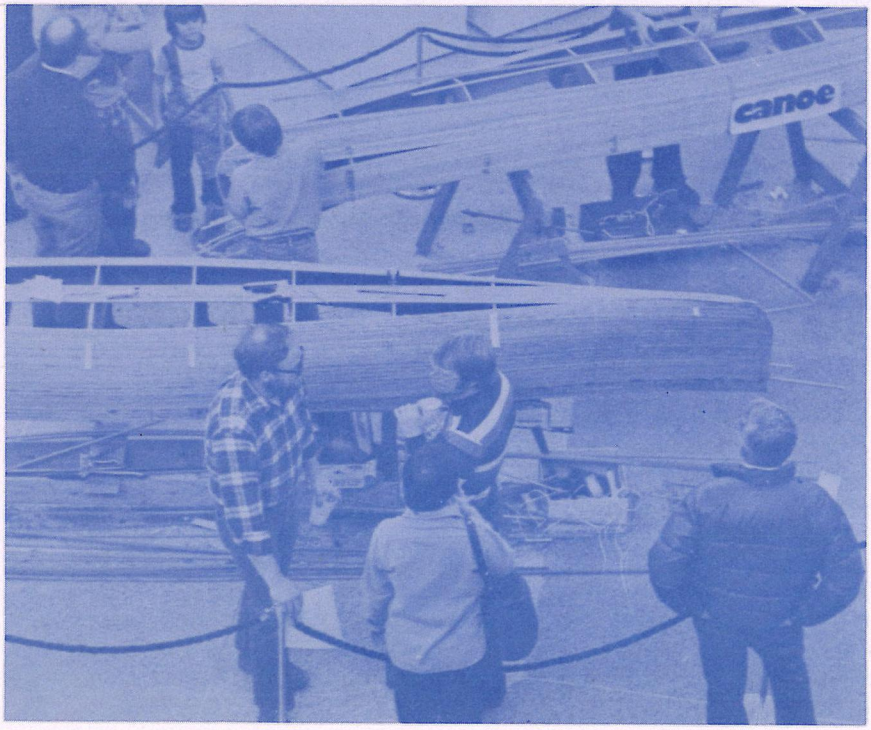
On this page is shown some of the people and the action at Ridgedale. Photos by Dean Miller

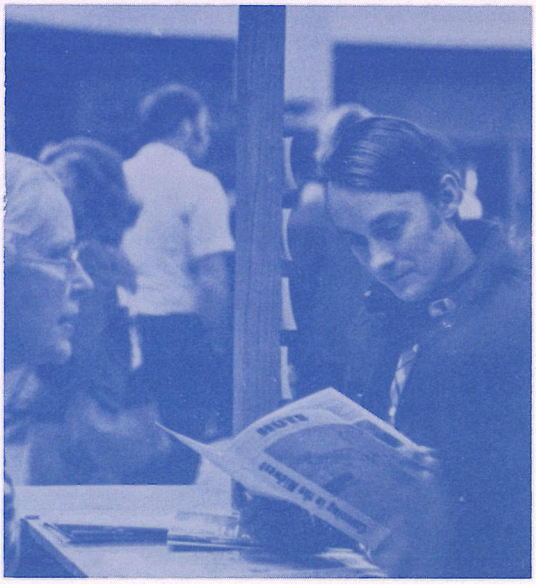












MISSISSIPPI MUD

Canoe Race Planned For Minneapolis

$1,000.00 has been raised as prize money for a four hour race on Saturday, June 24th. The proposed course is on the Mississippi River from Coon Rapids Dam to Anoka, then downstream to the Broadway Bridge. The donations have come from people who are long time friends of canoe racing; Mike Chichanowshi of Winona Canoes, Gene Jensen, Ev Crozier of Voyageur Canoe, Larry Kressel of Strait River Canoeing and Betty Ketter of Ketter Canoeing. Other manufactures and dealers are urged to help too. For more information on this major race contact Betty Ketter, 101- 79th Ave. N. Minneapolis 55444, or phone (612) 561-2208. We need to hear from racing teams and sponsors.

Jensen Handicap

Sunday, June 25th, is the date for this long standing MCA event when expert racers are matched by lottery with newer competitors. This is a good chance to paddle with one of the old guys in one of their super racing hulls as well as a fine test of early season training methods First timers should attend Rooky Racer training sessions to be ready for this .

Big Canoe Racing in Minnesota?

The old pro's are considering entering a six man team canoe race in British Columbia in May. They may be faced with a problem – how can Jensen build a twenty-five foot long hull in his twenty foot long shop?

Rookies Ride Again

By popular demand the rookie racer sessions will be held again this year. One or two days of each and every week an old pro or two, will be on the river and willing to advise those who wish to learn a little bit about long distance racing. We'll start in early April, if it's not raining or below freezing. Call Karl Ketter at 636-8116 if you are the least bit interested.

Gene Jensen has returned from central Florida. He's now making his famous strip racing canoes in Minneapolis, and playing hockey. He says the ice is Florida is too soft and the gators kept eating his pucks.

A DIFFERENT SPECIAL PLACE

By Stu and Mary Knappmiller

The morning is cold, about 0 F., there is an inch of fresh, sparkling snow and the sun is glowing through a faint haze. It is a good morning for beginning a winter camping weekend in the BWCA.

Everyone is anxious to get underway when we arrived at the Moose Lake landing north of Ely. We strap on our backpacks, step into our skis or snowshoes and stride out across frozen and snow covered Moose Lake.

There are eight in our group – all Sierra Club members; most bearded, young men, one father and son pair, one young woman, and one German shepherd. As we cross Moose Lake, we gradually spread out – dog in the lead, skiers close behind and those on showshoes in the rear. It is necessary to move steadily at first to overcome the burning sensation of cold hands and feet. As we warm up, we stop to first remove one layer of clothing and then later, another. This will help avoid wet clothing which is an important concern in the winter.

The BWCA in the winter is a special place just as it is during the other seasons. But, it is different in the winter. The squeak and crunch of bindings and skis replace the splash of canoe paddles. Instead of waves on the lakes there are small ridges of snow. There is a soft stillness covering everything.

By noon we reach the other side of Wind Lake and start the search for a campground. In contrast to the summer season, we have our choice. We settle on an island site with plenty of dead wood available nearby. By using skis to compact the snow, some of us prepare areas to set up tents or tarps. Others uncover the buried grill and eating area. Someone starts to make a hole in the ice with the ice auger. When these tasks are complete, we gather wood for the evening and morning fires.

Lunch is a variety of high energy foods – gorp (raisins, Peanuts, and M & M's), dried fruit, granola bars and chocolate bars. None of these foods become inedible in cold temperatures.

After lunch, the five of us with skis take off on a short trip to Basswood Lake. It is good to be free of the packs and soon the kick, glide ....kick, glide .... becomes automatic and effortless. This smooth rhythmic motion is part of the therapy of cross-country skiing.

We realize we are close to the Canadian Border – it becomes our goal. Soon we reach customs, but the welcoming committee we hoped for is not there. We joke about getting inside the shuttered buildings to watch TV.

It is time to return to camp. On our way we enjoy a fiery sunset. Back at Camp the task is to a get a good fire burning. When this is accomplished, the supper preparations begin.

The meal is finally ready. Dressed in our hooded parkas, choppers, and mukluks, we huddle around the fire and devour our rations – beef stew, hot rolls, hot cocoa with marshmallows, and blueberry cheese with whipped topping.

Once supper is over, there is no dawdling around the campfire. We gladly crawl into our down, mummy sleeping bags, With long woolen underwear, dry wool socks and stocking cap, we are almost warm. After much time spent trying to find a comfortable position, we give up and eventually fall asleep.

In the middle of the night, the dog picks up her ears. In the distance we hear the yipping and then howling of wolves – another reason why the BWCA is a special place.

The next morning we get up to find it snowing lightly. The fire is soon hot and breakfast ready – sausages, toast, oatmeal and hot cocoa. Now we take down the tents, stuff the sleeping bags and repack the backpacks. Another check around camp to make sure nothing has been left and that the fire is out, and we are on our way.

The hill on the portage trail is fast and steep – with a pack it is quite a challenge. Each skier screams with glee at the ride. Some end up in a pile at the bottom laughing.

Soon we are crossing Moose Lake, then within sight of the landing and finally repacking the cars for the trip home. There are mixed emotions at the end of the trip. There is a pleasant feeling of accomplishment and well-being, Yet, at the same time, a feeling of regret. Too soon we trade the solitude, purity, ski trails and muscle aches of the wilderness experience for the noise, pollution, highways and tension headaches of the "real" world.



THE TRADING POST

Items for The Trading Post should be mailed to: Hut Editor
Lew Miller
7500 Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Your ad will only run for one month and is free to members. HUT editors reserve the right to determine if ads are for a commercial venture and to charge the rate for space used.

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Strip boat, 17'9" racing cruiser. Cedar hull sitka spruce gunnels, seats, yoke, end plates, laminated handles. Caned seats. Gunnels doweled with black walnut. Mirror smooth hull. Fast, easy paddler. 50 lbs. 2nd prize 1968 builders contest. Supurb condition $400. Al 484-4346.

WANTED:

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FOR RENT Molds. Call Al 488-9621, Larry 533-6734, Bob 331-5284, George 825-0711 or Bob 331-5634

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AVAILABLE:

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Polyester resin with catalyst . $7.75 per gallon
4 oz. cloth, 50" wide. . . . . $1.60 per yard
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7½ oz. cloth, 60" wide . . . . . $2.00 per yard

Rules for purchase: Call ahead and schedule pick-up time. Payment by check or money order to Minnesota Canoe Association. Bring a valid membership card.

DEPOTS

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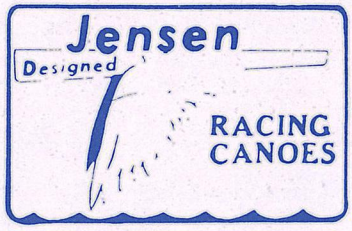
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Own canoe? _____ Type _____ How many others in your family canoe? _____

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