HUT! 1982

PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION INC.

NOVEMBER

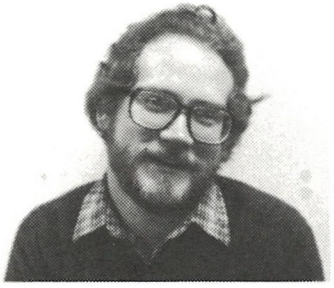
The Rest of Last Year's Crew **1981-82 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As was noted in HUT! last fall, we had planned to print a picture of all the 1981-82 Directors, along with a short write-up. Well, minus the latter, here's what the remainder of the crew looked like.

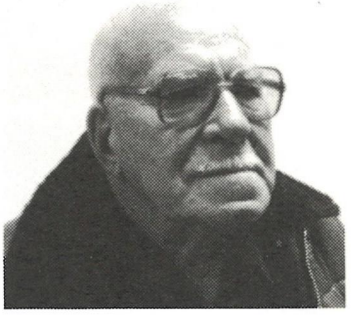
Since Venice Barsness, President, Mike Vande Vyver, Vice President, Jim Seward, Treasurer, and Roy Johnston, Membership (now deceased) were covered during the year, they will be omitted here.

Some of these same people have remained on as Directors for 1983, so you'll know who to give your support to in the months ahead.

Our secretary, Verna Robinson, is not pictured here.



Chris Berne — Publications



Walt Jones — Director through '83



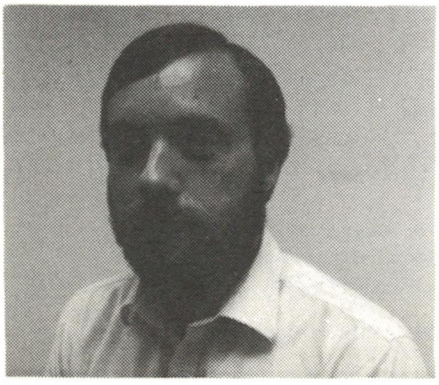
Karl Ketter — Education & Safety



Lonnie Helgeson — Program & News



John Kopp — Building



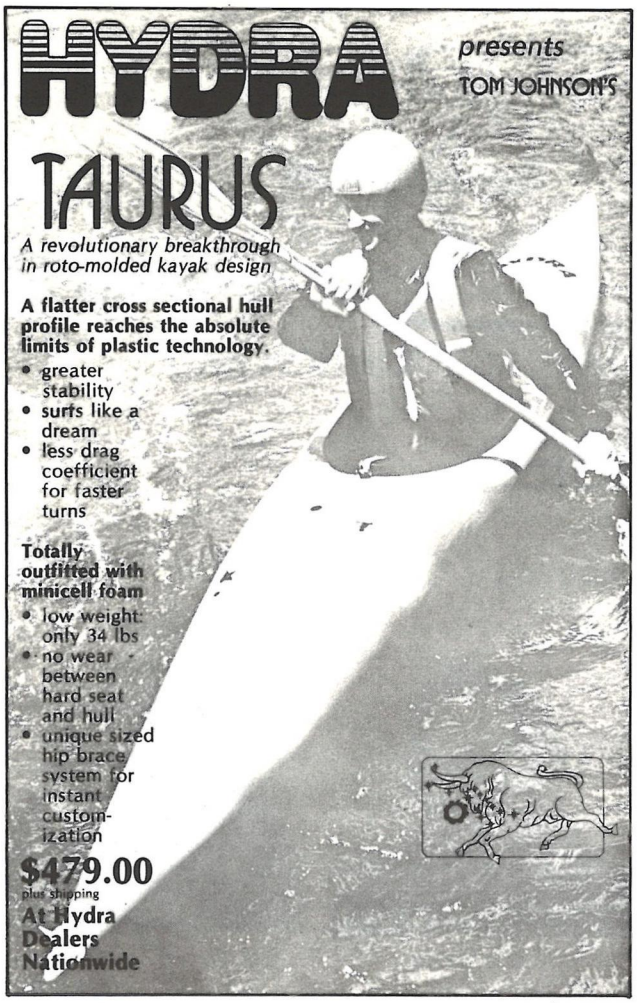
Dave Logeais — Conservation



Jim Robinson — Cruising



Penny Mielke — Director through '84





Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

10 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	**Ski Shape-Up** - Get ready for skiing and enjoy it more with valuable training advice from Rob Johnson, M.D. Both downhill and cross country skiers will benefit from this clinic. REI Co-Op 710 West 98th Bloomington, MN
17 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	**Skiing the Gunflint Trail** - Dave Tuttle will present skiing opportunities in the Gunflint Trail area and the unique ski-through program of the Bearskin Lodge. REI Co-Op 710 West 98th Bloomington, MN
25 Thursday	**Happy Thanksgiving**

Are you MOVING?

MOVING? Let us know when you move to make sure that you continue receiving HUT!. Bulk rate mail is not automatically forwarded like most of your mail.

Hut! Staff

Editor	Mike Gilman
Assistant Editor	Sharon Gilman
Publications	Chris Berne
Chief Typist	Kathy Cegla
Stat Camera	Christopher Stroth
Map Maker	Lonnie Helgeson
Calligraphy	Mary Sodergren
Cliff's Corner	Cliff Jacobson
Builders' Corner	Bob Brown
Advertising	Helen Olson

Send articles to:

Mike or Sharon Gilman
810 South Sixth Street, Apt. 1
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

DEADLINE FOR EACH ISSUE

Articles should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 12th day of the month preceding publication.

New Directors Voted in for 1983

Wednesday evening, October 20, a new Board of Directors for the MCA was voted in at the Annual Meeting held high up in the Rathskeller in the Sky, St. Paul.

Attendance was down some from the expected number, but those who came enjoyed the informal atmosphere all evening and the program that preceded the meeting.

Bob Firth and Alan Whidby were on hand to give a slide show/talk about Isle Royale and its canoe routes. Bob is a professional photographer and uses 2-1/4 x 2-1/4 slides. His views of the bays around the shoreline, the many inland lakes, the trees in fall colors, and a look along the canoe routes were magnificently displayed on screen. Bob definitely has an eye for composition and superb detail. Thanks again, Bob.

Alan Whidby followed with a talk about catching the boat over to the island, entry points, and areas of scenic interest. The canoe route across the interior was followed with diversions toward exploring the island, fishing various lakes, and extending the trip to include a few more lakes in a few more days. Everyone had a good feel for what the portages had to offer by the time Alan finished. Thanks, Alan, for a great insight on a unique national park.

The Annual Meeting started soon after with each current Director giving a short explanation of what they do or should do. Nominations were opened for all offices with the voting following.

Listed below are the new 1982-83 Directors.

Venice Barsness, President by acclamation
Karl Ketter, Vice President by acclamation
Verna Robinson, Secretary by vote
Dave Logeais, Treasurer by acclamation
Steve Stedman, Membership Director by acclamation
Chris Berne, Publications Director by acclamation
Jim Robinson, Cruising Director by acclamation
John Kopp, Building by acclamation
Al Gustavson, Conservation by vote
Winnie Dau Schmidt, Education and Safety by vote
Kurt Kemppainen, Program and News, by acclamation
Jim Seward, Director through '85

Special Notice

NOTICE — MONTHLY SPECIAL

Listed here are some canoes that are not selling well, so they are being priced to sell.

1 Sawyer Champion in Kevlar, normally $1,300, priced at only $650.

1 Sawyer Champion in fiberglass, normally $760, priced at only $495.

These canoes can be purchased directly from Louie's Sporting Goods, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, at 414-684-4501. You would have to arrange your own delivery.

Pat Padden, the midwest distributor for Sawyer Canoes, also has information on the Sawyer Loon and DY Special marked down about 40%. He can be reached at 612-721-6081.

October Directors Meeting

by Verna Robinson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by Venice Barsness. The MCA Directors were glad to see Walt Jones at this meeting, and we welcomed him back.

John Kopp said lately there hadn't been any building activities. The building show is planned for February on Saturday, the 19th or 26th, from about 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mike Gilman asked the Board members to urge people to go to the Banquet. As for cruising, Jim Robinson said after the Color Cruise, the canoeing season is pretty much over with.

There was discussion about the Banquet and prizes. The Board approved a motion providing the Cruising Director with a limited budget for prizes to be given away at the Banquet. These prizes are for cruises led or articles written about a canoe trip or cruise that were published in HUT!.

A motion was made that a rebate be issued to Chapters for each current MCA membership in their group for 1982. The motion was seconded and passed. The Secretary was asked to type a letter to all Presidents of chapters to remind them to send in their financial report and list of MCA members.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Ski Clinic

Cross Country Ski Clinic on November 6

Steven Gaskill of the U.S. Ski Coaches Association will direct a cross country ski clinic at Blake Upper School, 511 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis, on Saturday, November 6, 8:30-4:30. The clinic is designed for skiers, coaches, and Bill Koch League parents. Gaskill, a former U.S. Ski Team competitor and coach, will present current information from the U.S. Ski Team sports medicine program. Using new films, slides, and instructional booklets, he will cover technique, training, equipment, and philosophy of sport.

While the clinic will focus on competitive skiing, the recreational skier will also benefit from the presentation. Improved technique, better physical condition, and increased knowledge of equipment and waxing will enhance the quality of the ski touring experience.

For coaches wishing certification by the U.S. Ski Coaches Association, the clinic will lead to the Level I certificate. To qualify, the coach must be a member of the U.S. Ski Coaches Associaton, do additional reading after the clinic, and take a written examination.

Additional features of the clinic are a new video tape produced by Edsbyn featuring Jim and Lynn Galanes on roller skis, nutrition and training tips from Tammy Valentine Pitmon and Duncan McLean, and a free lunch courtesy of Swift Soup Starter.

Clinic fees are $3 for early registration and $4 at the door. For further information, contact Paul Sollie of the Minneapolis Ski Club at 377-8849 during the evening.

From the Editor

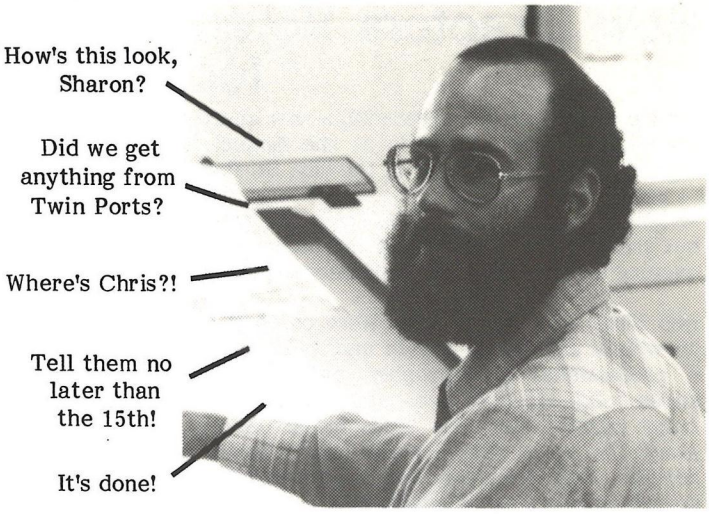
by Mike Gilman

Here's looking back over two years of being Editor of HUT!. With no prior experience in layout and publications, Sharon and I took over the job of Publications/ Editor in November of 1980 with a great deal of determination and little else. One month's (December 1980) HUT! was typed at home on a rented typewriter, but that was time-consuming to edit and correct. I soon sought the services of a word processor, operated by Kathy Cegla, at my place of employment, Research, Inc. Research was good enough to allow us time after hours on the machine since January 1981. This greatly increased our flexibility for making changes, and also allowed us to create nicer looking text (i.e., proportional spacing and bold overstrike characters).

As for layout experience, we relied on Research's Graphic Arts Technician, Nancy Palmquist, to show us how to lay out an interesting looking newsletter. This was a great help as it also speeded up the process over what we had been doing before.

Research was again involved, by letting us use the Art Department's stat camera (under Nancy's watchful eye) for making screened prints suitable for printing. That's when we first introduced photos back into HUT!. The use of the company's Kroy lettering machine and occasionally the Xerox copier allowed us to put together a 16-page newsletter, month after month, for the past two years. I'd like to think that the majority of the printed material was coming in from the membership, and thank all of you who have contributed articles or have written feature columns (such as Cliff Jacobson and Bob Brown).

The position of Editor is open now, and Chris Berne is looking for someone who would like to try their hand at laying out the newsletter. The many helpful hints and techniques we've learned will be passed on to the new



Editor, making the transition very easy indeed. Some of the services we had access to before will still be available, which means you don't need to have any special equipment or talents.

The HUT! writing sessions are working out quite well (when scheduled) for a group effort of condensing and editing general news plus building a Calendar of Events.

If anyone is interested in finding out additional information abou the Editor position, feel free to call Chris Berne at 929-5714 (home), 544-2422 (work), or me at 935-5799.

All in all, it's been a great way to meet people, get more involved in canoe sport, and give the best canoe club in America some personal effort to promote all aspects of canoeing.

Why don't you give it a try?

Special Reflections

THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

(by John R. Fitzgerald in WILDERNESS CAMPING, May/June issue, 1974)

For a lot of folks, the "wilderness experience" is an almost mystical happening, difficult if not impossible to define. I do know that it is not certain things. It is not competitive. The competitive spirit, so thoroughly a part of American life, has no place in the wilderness. But you see it manifested in various ways: paddle so far every day, break the peak-bagging record, etc., etc.

These endeavors place overwhelming emphasis on physical prowess, and that is exactly where the emphasis should not be. The emphasis should be on the experience of being there, not on how much is accomplished...because the wilderness experience is not just a lot of physical activity. It's not a sport. It's not a grubbing for accomplishment. It's not related to the business of making a living.

It's only my opinion, but it seems that the big part of the wilderness experience is in knowing that there are still many places you have never been, wild places, the custodians of a special magic waiting for you.

THE ENEMY

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men than all the wars of all nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than a cabal of the world's most sensuous women.

In the United States alone, I steal over $500 million each year; I spare no one, and I find victims among the rich and poor alike, the young and old, the strong and weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrow. I loom up in such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor.

I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, yet you heed me not. I am relentless, merciless, and cruel. I am everywhere—in the home, on the streets, in the factory, at railroad crossings, on land, in the air, and on the sea. I bring sickness, degradation, and death, yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I will give you nothing, and I may rob you of everything you have.

I am your worst enemy — I AM CARELESSNESS.

(From GUNNEL GAZETTE, Summer 1980 via the D.C. CRUISER, August 1981)

ACID RAIN

by Barb Ford

The BWCAW may have wilderness status now, but that won't stop the damage that is being done by something we can't even see. And hearings which constituted the longest rulemaking proceeding in Minnesota history would do nothing to change it.

In August, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency voted to relax many of the state's standards for sulfur dioxide, in spite of a 115-page report by examiner Howard Kaibel. The report opposed any reduction in sulfur dioxide emission standards.

These emissions, which produce sulfuric and nitric acids in the air, combine to form a precipitate called acid rain.

Ron Payer, Department of Natural Resources aquatic biologist, and Steve Heiskary, a Minnesota PCA biologist, are responsible for the most comprehensive research done on the problem of acid rain. Their research has produced the following information.

Recent changes in the pattern and composition of pollution have caused local problems to take on international consequences. Power plants and factories along the Ohio and Mississippi River corridors are responsible for much of the acid rain in Minnesota, up to 50 percent. Minnesota itself contributes 20 to 30 percent.

Acid rain is not a new problem. Past control measures reduced amounts of fly ash and other solid particles in the atmosphere, but this same fly ash may have actually helped to neutralize the acid. Even high smokestacks, contrary to popular belief, did not disperse pollutants. Instead, they allowed the pollutants to drift on higher air currents for up to 20 days. This provided enough time for a chemical conversion to acid and its migration to other areas.

Eventually, the acidic pollutants make their way to Minnesota. Monitoring stations near the Twin Cities and in Lamberton, Marcell, Ely, Duluth, Gooseberry Falls, and Hovland indicate that the most acid rain (and snows) are found in the northeast. The least acidic precipitations are found in the southwest. This precipitation is involved in the total water cycle.

Our lakes and streams normally have pH values between six and nine, held steady by a complete buffering system. Alkalinity is the buffering system that protects the purity of water so no major shift in pH normally occurs. This buffer system arises from a complete integration of bedrock, soils, and vegetation in a lake's watershed.

Bodies of water are the most obvious reservoirs for acid rain. So far, no lakes have been identified in Minnesota which have been acidified by acid deposition. Some lakes, however, were found that have essentially no alkalinity. These lakes are considered naturally acidic and are usually dark brown in color as a result of acids from decomposing organic matter in ferns or peat bogs.

The pH of a lake also determines the reproduction and survival of fish and other aquatic life.

A low pH endangers the reproductive stages of many aquatic forms, an important point because many of our aquatic species reproduce in the spring in water carrying acid from snowmelt. These acids disrupt normal reproductive cycles, which may cause loss of fish and changes in growth rate and reproductive ability. The acids may also determine which species of fish survive. Minnesota fish thought to be most sensitive to acidification include the walley, smallmouth bass, lake trout, rainbow trout, and burboy.

No losses or reduction in fish populations have yet been identified in Minnesota as a result of acid deposition. Economists indicate that such losses, or the public's view of such losses, could have marked effects on the economy of a region which depends on revenue from sport fishing. Though acidified lakes or loss of fish were not found, the pH in the precipitation and the amount of sulfate in some regions are at or near levels which have cause biological damage elsewhere.

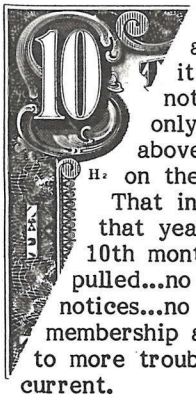
The effects of acid rain may be more pronounced as the snow melts. Acids and other impurities accumulate in the snow pack over the winter months; most are released during the first snow melt.

As the meltwater reaches streams and lakes, it reduces the water's alkalinity. If the streams do not have enough buffering capacity, dramatic pH declines may occur, and the possibility of fish-kill exists.

The pH in most streams has enough buffering ability to counteract the influx of acid from meltwater. But in many lakes that are already sensitive to fluctuations, any increase in acid cannot be tolerated.

Most of these lakes are in Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties. Twenty to 25 percent, or 250 to 350, lakes in the BWCAW alone may be extremely sensitive to acid rain. Other sensitive lakes are found in Cass, Itasca, Crow Wing, Morrison, Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, and Kanabec counties, a total of 6,767 lakes in 21 counties, 2,300 of which are fish lakes.

Fortunately, more data is being gathered about the effects of acid rain. But knowledge does not seem to be enough to persuade the government not to allow even more damage to a fragile wilderness system. One can only hope for more sensitivity from future public officials.



When you got a $10 bill for your annual dues (a postcard), that was it. No follow-up. No past-due notice. No threat. No plea. The only reminder will be the numbers above your name on the address label on the back side of this newsletter. That indicates your dues renewal is due that year, that month (8210 means the 10th month of 1982). Then the plug is pulled...no more trip schedules, program notices...no more HUT!. Dropping your membership and reinstating it puts the club to more trouble and expense than keeping current.

Checks should be made payable to the Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. and mailed to:

Membership
Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 14207
University Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Changes of address (now very important because mail sent under our bulk rate permit will not be forwarded or returned to the MCA with an address correction) should also be sent to the Membership Director.

Mississippi Mud

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG DISTANCE CANOE RACERS

President - Steve Peterson, 612-753-2921
MCA Director - Chris Berne, 612-929-5714
News Coordinator - Jim Pomroy, 612-636-9879
Race Schedule - Warren Thunstrom, 612-780-2866
Rookie Racers - Karl Ketter, 612-636-8116

by J. Graham

The official Minnesota canoe racing season wrapped up September 25-26 with the State Championships for women and mixed teams. Both races were held on the Rum River in Anoka. The contestants raced upstream and circled the island in both races. A short loop around the piers of the first bridge downstream was added to Sunday's race.

The three teams that showed up for the Women's Championship Saturday couldn't have asked for a nicer day. It was cool, calm, and sunny--such perfect paddling weather that Mike Bohanon begged to be allowed to enter with his C-1 (under the alias of "Ms. Bohanon"). All entrants received a paddle cover, and the winners were presented with hand-painted mugs to commemorate the event.

Next year's Women's Championship is expected to be scheduled earlier in the season when more of the women paddlers are in town. The ranks of women paddlers are growing, slowly but surely, and next year's race is certain to become much more competitive as more women start paddling and actively racing in Minnesota. Nevertheless, this years Championship was thoroughly enjoyed by both racers and spectators, and if the relaxed, friendly atmosphere is present at next year's event, it should be a real first-rate race.

Bow/Stern	**Time**
JoAnn Dahlen/Sheila Johnson	55:48
Terry Twa/Bev Sumner	57:18
Terri Amundson/Jenny Graham	66:36

The Mixed Championship was held the day following the women's race. Therre was a hearty turnout for the event--10 teams paid the $2 entry fee, vying for the 20 designer "HUT" mugs. Each mug was painstakingly handpainted by Jenny Graham and Karl Ketter, whose performance during the race the next day was somewhat impaired by fingers cramped from holding the little paintbrushes for 4-1/2 hours. Each mug displays the name of the event, the year, the place finished, and "HUT" written on the bottom as a courtesy to those who might leave their mugs resting on their noses all morning.

It was a short, intense race, punctuated by outbursts from the partners of those sternmen who chose a downstream detour that ended up to be a "long cut" rather than a short one. The character of the race can best be summed up in the fact that everyone crossed the finish line smiling, and no marriages were seriously jeopardized by the race results.

The awards ceremony included hot coffee and homemade cookies from Betty Ketter, the coveted lavender mugs to first place, and the "booby canoe" cups to Scott Ankeny and Bev Sumner from southern Minnesota who tipped over but still went on to finish strongly. Apologies to Doug Sumner, who went upstream to watch the race but left before hearing of the course change.

Bow/Stern	**Time**
Sheila Johnson/Mike Bohanon	58:45
Bonnie Peterson/Steve Peterson	59:05
Jenny Graham/Gene Jensen	61:55
Mary Sipe/Dave Sipe	62:15
Bev Sumner/Scott Ankeny	63:45
Bev Waddel/Clint Waddel	64:37
Betty Ketter/Buzzy Peterson	65:17
Teri Amundson/Karl Ketter	66:55
Lora Lakin/Fred Sumner	70:16
Monica Trivenbach/Buck Broten	73:04

Saturday, October 9, was the annual fall get-together at Bonnie and Steve Peterson's. They entertained a whole houseful of noisy, gregarious racers, who drove out to the Peterson's handsome home on the banks of the Rum River to do a little paddling, eat a potluck supper, and play charades. Scott Ankeny showed the videotape of the Fairmont race. Everyone gathered around the TV in the living room, watching themselves paddle the race on a flawless summery day, while beyond the Peterson's snug living room the sky was chalky gray. As was evident at Rookies this Monday (where nary a canoe showed), the off-season is upon us, both welcomed and a little regretted. There is time for other pursuits now, and time to spend with families, and spring is very, very far away. But still the water slides quietly by, in the back of our mind, flowing on and on around the bend, and it will be a while until we can go along down that river again.

Racers Tips

A canoe racer will answer those questions for which he is sure of the answer. Writers answer all questions as if they were sure of the answers.

* * *

Minnesota state law requires a license for every canoe, sailboat, and rubber raft, and a life jacket for every person. Don't argue or don't get caught.

* * *

Canoe racers will never think ill of you because you don't know much about racing or are just starting out. They will think dark thoughts about you if you give up, never pay your share of the gas, or don't politely appreciate their latest racing theory.

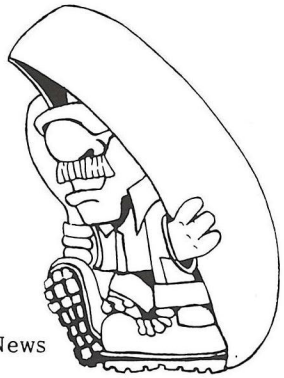
* * *

A canoe race is something that will always happen if two canoes are pointed in the same direction and they see you looking at their shiny new hull.

* * *

Use a flexible steel cable and hardened shackle lock to secure canoes to the top of your unattended car. The kevlar label is known to paddlers and thieves alike.

The Duluth Traveler



Twin Ports Chapter News

President: Rick Luck, 18 W. Owatonna Street, Duluth, MN 55803 724-7992
Cruising: Liz & Fred Freeman, 525-6486
Whitewater: Sue Marsh, 879-3460
Racing: Jim Wheeler, 722-8010
Publicity: Linda Winslow, 722-9208
Kris Wegerson, 724-5209

Flambeau COLOR CRUISE

by David Spencer

The 1982 Fall Color Cruise will go down in the history books as "the trip that was" and for some "shouldn't have been." We had our normal rendezvous at Perkins in Superior and stood around trying to convince Phil Halvorsen that the Force Ten gale out on Lake Superior was no indication of things to come. He wasn't convinced. So we set off to the north fork of the Flambeau River.

This year's trip had a very welcome addition: Byron Selbrede's six-canoe trailer. Oh, yes, so were you Byron. The trip down was uneventful, despite a couple of wrong turns here and there. Tim Sundquist must have had haystacks and side curlers dancing in his head. We found the campsite with no problem, and soon tents were up and a blazing fire cheered us, not to mention the hot chocolate and peppermint schnapps.

Saturday morning brought easterly winds and the hint of rain that would later cause armed rebellion amidst the otherwise passive, placid Twin Ports Chapter. During the shuttle, some of us had a chance to play Scrabble and cribbage under the Big Bear while we watched the rain. Just prior to take off, a vote was taken whether to head out or head home, and the almost unanimous cry was "to the river!"

The rain and 45° temperature showed us all how much fun could be had and still be only two steps away from hypothermia. After a soggy ten miles, we pulled out for lunch and a chance to empty the canoes. With mouthfuls of onion soup, cheese, gorp (the only real fall colors) and sardines, dissension reared its ugly head, and before long, there under the lone spruce at Camp 41 on the Flambeau River, a mutiny was staged. Before it was over, five of the original paddlers were on their way back to warmth and dry clothes.

The eight of us who remained were stunned by the departure of our fellow travelers. With heavy hearts, and even heavier water-soaked packs, we headed down, determined to carry the torch for the Twin Ports. As if by magic, the rain stopped for the remainder of the afternoon.

With the Flambeau being three to four feet higher than its normal summer flow, the rapids became fun sets of standing waves. We made our way down through Wannigan Rapids with no problem and were soon looking down Cedar Rapids. "Piece of cake" was shouted by one. "Straight through the shoot on the left side of the island" was yelled by another. "Sweatless" was heard above the roar of the rapids. And yet, the canoes were still circling around and around, tying packs down, adjusting vests, reciting the Lord's Prayer, scribbling notes to loved ones. Since no one was doing the hut stroke to get into the shoot, Fearless Sue and I paddled to the lip. The slow but final realization that we were making a big mistake came when suddenly the shoot dropped out of site. "Draw left," I screamed. That made as much difference as the "Brace" I yelled as we hit the haystacks below. "Don't worry, it's only water."

Looking back to the shoot, we saw Kris and Byron sinking slowly into the Flambeau as each haystack attached the Corecraft. The other two boats fared only a little better. Once camp was set up on the island, we had a chance to look back over the run. We'd taken the worst possible channel. Well, nothing is too much for the hardy paddlers from Duluth, right?

Dinner was a time of cooperation. Everyone threw in something to the community pot. The evening camp fire was provided by two or three flash lights flickering back and forther over water soaked logs. With a little imagination, you can go a long way. Beacon biscuits and hot chocolate made the day's escapades seem like nothing.

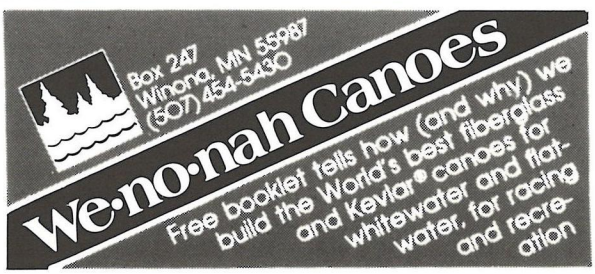
Lucikly, the next morning brought sun and no rain. We got a slow start and were off to Beaver Dam Rapids by noon. The remaining whitewater was quite manageable. A bald eagle was spotted, as were many ducks. Lunch was another community meal with Tim and Carol's roast beef, Gardner's onion soup, and Sue's Beacon Biscuits taking top billing.

In all, a great trip was had despite the rather wet start.

Beacon Biscuits

2 cups melted margarine
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups white sugar
4 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups corn flakes or other cereal
2 cups oatmeal
4 cups flour
2 teaspoons soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1-1/2 cups raisins
2 cups coconut
12 oz. miniature chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts
12 oz. butterscotch chips

Drop batter by tablespoon on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes.



CLIFF'S CORNER



WHAT'S NEW, PUSSYCAT?

by Cliff Jacobson

As a writer, I continually receive samples of new products to evaluate and comment upon. Some of these products are excellent; others are marginal; and still others aren't worth the materials they're built from. I thought you might be interested in my impressions of some of these new products which I have on hand. I'll pull no punches in my evaluations--you'll get my honest impressions. But be aware: I use my gear much more heavily than most. A year's use of some camping items to me might represent a decade of normal use by the average camper. As a result, I'll tend to be a bit harder on the product than might be the case if more limited use under carefully controlled conditions were anticipated. Here goes:

New Paddles from "Bending Branches"

Ron Hultman and Dale Kicker of St. Paul are handcrafting a nice line of lightweight laminated paddles--both straight and bent shaft--which are currently available only at Eastern Mountain Sports (Roseville Shopping Center area store). Paddles are constructed of ash, basswood, and black willow, and come stock with nice pear grips at $37.95 or with a fancy T-grip for five bucks more. Blades are tipped with fiberglass and kevlar. Weight on my 56-inch straight sample is an honest one lb., 8 oz. That's very light for a paddle of this length. Blades are 8 to 8-1/2 inches wide, have nice flexibility. Shafts have very little flexibility, which is nice. The flex is in the blade, where it belongs. There are no splines to make noise. And there seems to be plenty of strength at the throat. Balance is unusually good for a paddle in this price class. The paddle feels like a custom stick with no awareness of weight in the blade.

Strength seems plenty adequate for whitewater to low Class III. My only criticism of this well-made (and pretty) paddle is the extremely long oval on which the shaft is cut; sides of the shaft are flat, having been run through a table saw. Forward and back edges of the shaft are routed round. The result is a very long oval which doesn't fill out the hand quite as well as a less severe cross section. However, some folks with small hands may prefer this design.

In all, my hat's off to "Bending Branches"—they've got a nice line of paddles. Check 'em out at EMS!

Fast Buck Saw

Some of you have seen the prototype of this solid maple folding saw at my canoe seminars at REI. Now, friend Paul Swanstrom at "Shutters, Inc.", 110 East Fifth Street, Hastings, MN 55033, is making an absolutely spectacular version of this saw. It's all hard maple with 18-inch Sandvik blade--easily replaceable at any hardware store. All hardware is stainless steel and aluminum, and the buck saw locks together so tightly you'd swear it was a one-piece model. When disassembled, the unit snaps together and secures with loops of shock cord. There are no parts to lose, bend, or break. This work of art will cut 12-inch logs and never come loose like the metal triangle saws you're familiar with. Eddie Bauer was so impressed, they'll be stocking the product in their new catalog. REI in Bloomington reports good initial sales. If you're looking for a new folding saw--the best there is--check this one out at REI, or call or write Paul directly and he'll ship one to you. Price is $27.95 for the 15 oz. sugar maple model, or $29.95 for cherry wood (12 oz.). The unit packs shorter than a SVEN saw. It was designed especially for canoe camping.

PAWS

Jeff Bowman and Danny Harding of AirZone Mfg. Co. (303 Sharpe Road, Anacortes, WA 98221) are making a unique three-fingered neoprene wetsuit glove designed especially for canoeing in cold weather. The gloves come in three sizes (small, medium, large) and in blue or black. They're lined with nylon inside and out. I wore a pair of PAWS in some pretty severe weather on our Arctic trip last summer. When not in use, they stayed rolled and stuffed into a pack pocket. After some five weeks, they showed no signs of wear--the neoprene was not cut or abraded. The gloves kept my hands warm during the days of icy sleet and fit perfectly. These PAWS are lightweight (1/8-inch neoprene) and designed for active paddling. I can recommend them heartily for all sorts of uses—from wilderness tripping and whitewater to active spring racing. PAWS are $19.95—and worth it, from AirZone Mfg. Co.

Gott Coolers

I received a slug of coolers ice chests, and thermal units from the Gott Company this spring. Believe me, I am impressed! These all-plastic coolers are built like tanks and designed to keep your drinks and meats ice cold all day long. Most of the Gott coolers have re-freeze bottles in the lids. All have bomb-proof latches and handles. And they're so tough you can literally jump on them. Of all the coolers and thermal/cold units I've seen, I rate these most highly. The big Gott coolers actually have more insulation in them than the roof of most refrigerators! Yet they're lightweight and rustproof. I'm impressed with the full product line. There are models suited to day trips in canoes and casual spring picnics. I've seen Gott products at Menard's. The company has been in business for only a couple years, but already is capturing a giant share of the market.

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.

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DNR News

WILDLIFE GIVEN ASSIST IN MINNESOTA VALLEY

Wildlife received a boost in the Minnesota Valley during the last weekend of August when a dozen volunteers from the Richfield-Bloomington Conservation Club spent three days working at Lawrence Wayside between Jordan and Belle Plaine.

Two projects were completed that will restore over two hundred acres of wetlands. A water control structure and dike where installed at one location, and an extension was added to an existing culvert that will enable DNR personnel to manage water levels to benefit waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.

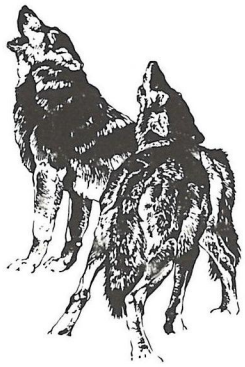
The project will add diversity to the floodplain habitat and will allow Minnesota Valley trail users an increased opportunity to view wildlife.

Chuck Kartak, manager of the area, said that "hard work, time and money, was given by the Conservation Club for the projects."

The projects were a combined effort by the Conservation Club, the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and the Division of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Natural Resources.

"It is another example of sportsman's clubs giving their time and money to ensure the perpetuation of our wildlife heritage," said Kartak. "All of the people of Minnesota--and especially the users of the Minnesota Valley recreation areas--will benefit from their work."

Editor's Notes



To the Editor:

I fail to see where the population of timber wolves in Minnesota comes under the expertise or knowledge of the members of the Minnesota Canoe Association. I have lived in northern Minnesota my entire life and it never fails to amaze me how knowledgeable the urban population of southern Minnesota is on all aspects of wilderness management.

The wolf population in northern Minnesota is an issue to be addressed by people knowledgeable of the situation. By your printing of this request for support of the wolf population you place this publication and organization in a position against professional wildlife managers and people trying to live in northern Minnesota. Why doesn't the Minnesota Canoe Association stick to a subject that the people who belong to it know something about; namely, the participation and promotion of the finest recreation in the world--canoeing!

Ted Fulton
Two Harbors, MN

Yours for the asking

CANOEING, HIKING AND BACKPACKING GUIDE AVAILABLE

This fall, discover Minnesota on foot or by water. Never before have so many vacation opportunities for canoeing, hiking and backpacking been available. In a decade of development, a number of campsites, boat accesses, and marked trails are not being used to capacity by the public, according to park and forest managers.

Just as cooler days and brilliant color begins to sweep the landscape, the Minnesota Travel Information Center offers free the first comprehensive river and trail guide for the state. This 16-page planning aid, CANOEING, HIKING AND BACKPACKING IN MINNESOTA, gives names, locations, brief descriptions, and information sources for more than 3,000 miles of foot trails and over 35 canoeable rivers, in the state's only national park, Voyageurs; two national forests, Superior and Chippewa; 65 state parks, and 55 state forests.

Hundreds of destinations to suit a wide range of interests and ages are listed along with outdoor outfitters, books, agencies, and organizations for more information. Minnesota is at the biological crossroads of three great regions--the western plains and prairies, the norther coniferous forest, and the eastern hardwood forest--with a vast array of geographical and wildlife differences around the state. Young or old, novice or experienced, individual or group--there's an outing for everyone in the guide.

Here are just a few suggestions as a sampling of the many discoveries you can make about Minnesota this fall:

In four years, Jay Cooke State Park near Carlton has tripled the mileage of foot trails to over 40, running across rugged terrain with views of the spectacular St. Louis River Valley Gorge. Sheer cliffs of granite rise high on either side of the boulder-strewn lava and shale bedrock river basin where rock jumping is a favorite activity.

At Sibley State Park near Willmar, a new interpretive center has just been completed. Eighteen miles of trails are available, but the highlight is a climb to the peak of Mt. Tom with the park naturalist for a 50-mile wide panoramic view of the fall color below.

Maplewood State Park near Pelican Rapids, well-known for its unusual fall beauty, has 25 miles of hiking trails and walking paths. Contrasted with the hardwoods setting is the large tract of seven to eight foot high prairie grass at Blue Mounds State Park where the landscape becomes a sea of copper-colored grass in the fall.

Canoeing in the fall requires a river that can hold its water during this sometimes dry season. In Minnesota, these rivers are typically the Big and Little Fork in northern Minnesota, the Granite and Isabella in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the Crow Wing and the north fork of the Crow in central Minnesota, the Mississippi from St. Cloud to Anoka, the Minnesota, and the St. Croix.

Especially scenic, but sometimes too shallow to canoe, are the Cannon, Zumbro, and Root Rivers which meander through rolling farmland and along limestone bluffs in the southeastern corner of the state.

For your free copy of the CANOEING, HIKING AND BACKPACKING IN MINNESOTA guide, call the Minnesota Travel Information Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., toll-free outside Minnesota 1-800-328-1461, or toll-free from within Minnesota, 1-800-652-9747. Twin Cities residents, call 296-5029. Written requests should be sent to 240 Bremer Building, 419 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.

The Minnesota Travel Information Center is a service of the Tourism Division, Department of Energy, Planning and Development.

Book Review

by Tom McCloud

(Taken from October '82 issue of Coastal CaNEWS)

THE CANOER'S BIBLE
by Robert Douglas Mead
Doubleday, Garden City, NY (1936)
170 pps, 7-1/2 x 10, softcover, b & w photos
$3.95

"A complete guide to the pleasure of canoeing, with 100 illustrations of canoe equipment and its best use and care," says the cover page. I picked up the volume and scanned the table of contents: canoes, handling, equipping, gear, traveling free, etc. It looked like a pretty good lineup. But into the first chapter, the universe of this "complete" guide is considerably circumscribed, as the author states, "All these waters that form the canoe traveler's world are what is known as 'flat'."

The Canoer's Bible is one of the considerable series of "bibles" covering such things as duck hunting, golfing, and snowmobiling. It covers canoeing only from the standpoint of the long distance canoe tripper and does not mention any other aspect of canoe sport. There is no biography given on the author, but this is not Mr. Mead's first literary endeavor. He earlier published a story about a canoe trip on the McKenzie River titled "Ultimate North." From this and other information in the book, I would conclude that he is well experienced as a canoe tripper and probably well qualified to compose a treatise on the subject (and I'd like to speculate that he puts bread on the table as a professor of history at a small Pennsylvania college).

Anyway, the style is quite readable, and his information is mostly accurate. My biggest objection is to his section on handling, which I feel teaches paddling technique incorrectly and poorly. His selection of gear is a bit different from mine, but that may be just "style." The black and white photos are crips and well reproduced, but not highly informative.

Are you considering a long wilderness canoe trip? Well, you could do much worse than "The Canoer's Bible" as a guidebook, in that most all the considerations the wilderness tripper must consider are mentioned. You may not reach the same conclusions as the author, but at least you will have been made aware. So, for a reasonably good "trippers" book, give "The Canoer's Bible" some consideration.

How about a book report from you?!

TRADING POST

Free personal ads to MCA members

For Sale: Cabin on the Snake River between Pine City and St. Croix. Indoor toilet. Will sell contract for deed, $26,000. Jerry Stiff, 450-0879 or 735-4346.

For Sale: Racing canoe, 3x27 woodstrip weighing 29 lbs. $300. Contact Dan Hassel at Rt. 1, Box 15, Isanti, MN 55040 or call 218-742-9677

For Sale: Old Town Canadian, 17', 2" fiberglass. Mahogany and spruce gunwales with cane seats. Used only twice (still like new). An excellent paddling canoe. Must sell to continue education. $900 or best offer. Call Gary Cox at 218-728-2301 preferably before 7:00 a.m.

MCA Canoe Building Supplies

For Sale: MCA resin and fiberglass cloth. Polyester resin with catalyst is $11.75 per gallon. Four ounce cloth, 50 inches wide, is $2.50 per yard; 7-1/2 ounce cheesecloth, 60 inches wide, is $3.50 per yard. Rules for purchase: Call ahead and schedule pickup time. Payment by check or money order to Minnesota Canoe Association. No cash. Bring a valid membership card.

Depots:

Bruce Kunz	454-7207	Eagan
Betty Ketter	561-2208	No. Minneapolis

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Members are encouraged to patronize these sponsors.

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MCA T-SHIRTS

Light blue shirt with navy blue graphic depicting tandem canoeing, kayaking, and whitewater solo. 50% cotton, 50% polyester. Only $5 each, plus shipping and handling (1 shirt - $1; 2 shirts - $1.50; 3 or more shirts - $2). Available in XL, L, M, S.

MCA STICKERS

Blue graphic and lettering on a reflectorized background, 3-1/4" x 4-5/8". Get one for each boat and an extra one for your car. $1 each.

MCA PATCHES

Gold trim and crossed paddles over a silver canoe with silver lettering on a blue background. 3" x 4-1/2" oval. Sew one on your favorite paddling jacket or canoe pack. $2 each.

* * *

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In addition to joining the Minnesota Canoe Association, I would like information on the following clubs:

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( ) Twin Ports
( ) St. Cloud
( ) Southern Minnesota Canoe Association (Owatonna/Faribault)
( ) Long Distance Racers
( ) Canoe Brigade du Nord (Voyageurs)
( ) Rapid Riders (Whitewater)

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( ) Woodstrip Canoe Building Manual and Explorer and Guide plans for $5.00

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( ) 18'6" 3 & 27 Racer (Ketter)
( ) 15' Solo (Ketter)

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