ISSN 0739-7445

HUT!

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION INC.

April 1984 / Volume 20, Number 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(FMI= for more information)

CALENDAR RIVER RATING CODE

example:**@Q,I-A (trees,cold)**

@ = code following
Q = quiet water; W = Whitewater
I-A = skill level required: **B**eginner, **N**ovice, **I**ntermediate, **A**dvanced
( ) = special conditions requiring rating

APRIL

MONTHLY DIRECTORS MEETING
4 **Wednesday 7:00 - 10:30 P.M.**
All members welcome.
Minnesota Federal Savings & Loan
1717 Lexington Ave., Roseville.

HUT! WRITING MEETING
5 **Thursday 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.**
Need trip promo and report writers.
Winnie DauSchmidt's (612)644-6115
1679 W. Minnehaha Ave.,St.Paul, Mn.

RACERS ORGANIZATION MEETING
6 **Friday 7:00-10:30 P.M.**
1957 Lake, Roseville
FMI Karl Ketter (612)636-8116

RAPID RIDERS BUSINESS MEETING
10 **Tuesday 7:30 P.M.**
Coffee House Extempore
Cedar & Riverside Aves. Minneapolis
FMI John Wexler (612)722-7069

WHITE & TOTOGATIC RIVERS, WISC
13,14,15 **Fri.-Sun., @W,B-I Class I & II**
Special EXPERT EXHIBITION Run at end
Trip Leader John Wexler (612)722-7069
Asst. Mike Vande Vyver (612)922-7633

QUIETWATER CRUISING PROGRAM
14 **Saturday 1:00-5:00 P.M.**
Quiet rivers of 5 states slide show
'Equipping for Tripping' demonstration
Brooklyn Center Civic Center
6301 Shingle Creek Parkway
FMI Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

BLACK RIVER AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
16 **Monday 6:30-8:30 P.M.**
"FAR NORTH ADVENTURE" SERIES
at Stillwater Public Library
223 N. 4th St. Stillwater MN
Free to public
Sponsored by Wilderness Inquiry Assoc.
FMI Don Mitchell (612)433-5367

BEGINNING WHITEWATER COURSE, 1ST CLASS
17 **Tuesday 7:00 P.M.**
Equipment, personal gear, clothing
EMS Lob Pine, 1627 West County Rd. B
HarMar, just west of Snelling, St.Paul

RACERS ORGANIZATION MEETING
20 **Friday 7:00-10:30 P.M.**
1957 Lake, Roseville
FMI Karl Ketter (612)636-8116

SHINGLE CREEK CRUISE
21 **Saturday @Q,I-A (portages, dam, trees)**
Trip Leader Bob Bowman (612)561-7842

WOLF & PESHTIGO RIVERS, WISC
27,28,29 **Fri-Sun, @W,I-A Class II & III**
Whitewater Instructors cruise
Trip Leader John Wexler (612)722-7069
Asst. Burt Levy (612)729-8874

RICE CREEK CRUISE
28 **Saturday @Q,N-I, (trees, bends)**
Trip Leader Ken Esperson (612)645-8463

BRULE RIVER TROUT SCOUT, WISC
28 **Saturday @W,N-I, Class I, (cold)**
4th Annual Twin Ports cruise
FMI see article in chapter news pg.13.
Leader Dave Spencer (218)624-3413.

(Continued on Page 3)

HUT!

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 1984, all rights reserved.

HUT! STAFF

Winnie DauSchmidt, *Editor* **Jim Robinson,** *Ass't. Editor*

Deadline For Each Issue:

Articles should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send submissions to: Winnie DauSchmidt, Editor, 1679 W. Minnehaha, St. Paul, MN 55104.

1983-1984 Board of Directors, Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc.

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(612) 432-7557

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
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Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 729-8874

Mike Van de Vyver *(1986)*
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Minneapolis, MN 55410
(612) 922-7633

Chapter Representatives

Karl Ketter
Long Distance Canoe Racers
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Roseville, MN 55113
(612) 636-8116

Mike Zapf
St. Cloud Chapter
1714 Woodland
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(612) 251-5807

Rick Luck
Twin Ports Chapter
18 W. Owatonna Street
Duluth, MN 55803
(218) 724-7992

John Wheeler
Voyageurs
2690 Huron Street
Roseville, MN 55113
(612) 633-6500

Ardel Gorman
Desert (Austin)
810 Tenth Avenue Southwest
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 433-7465

John Wexler
Rapid Riders & Kayak
2923 16th Avenue South
Minnepolis, MN 55407
(612) 722-7069

RIVER RESCUE TECHNIQUES

A presentation of the Minnesota Outdoor School at the Northwoods Audubon Center located near Sandstone, Minnesota. Dates are May 19th and 20th, 1984. $40. per person for instruction and food.

Picture a canoe filled with water caressing a rock in the middle of a rapids. The force is equivalent to that of a truck pushing on the rock, but the rock is not going to give. You can walk away in your squishy tennis shoes, happy to be free of the water, and willingly write off the canoe; but if you do, that canoe is both a detriment to the beauty of the river and a threat to other paddlers.

How do you get that boat out of there?

In this workshop we will wrestle with these kinds of problems. We will get wet, work with ropes and pulleys, float in the rapids, work on Z-drags, tyroleans, Telfer lowers, ziplines, ferrying, and other rescue ideas and techniques.

Everyone will get wet. The river will be our blackboard and participants will learn by trying.

Have you ever used your throwbag? Have you ever tried to catch your throwbag while floating through a rapids?

We will camp along the Kettle River, work with canoes, ropes, and strategies. We will not tackle problems that will put you in danger. We will work with controlled circumstances where we can concentrate on the mechanics of the techniques, rather than the thrill of the rapids.

Participants need not be experts, but they should have river experience and be capable paddlers.

This course is part of a series of weekend sessions which are worth college credit if an individual wants certification in paddling. The techniques have been developed by the Nantahala Outdoor School, the Ohio River Rescue Program, and the Northwoods Audubon Center staff.

All of the rescue equipment will be furnished, and it is easy to acquire.

There will also be first aid techniques practised in the water and discussion of evacuation and other emergency procedures.

If you lead groups this knowledge is imperative. If you go out canoeing with friends it might save a life.

For details or reservations, contact Northwoods Audubon Center, Route 1 Box 288, Sandstone, MN 55072. (612)245-2648.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ROOKIE RACERS FIRST SESSION
30 **Monday 6:00-9:00 P.M.**
Landing, coaching, and training for new racers.
University Showboat Landing
(Continues on every Monday until October) FMI Karl (612)636-8116

WHITEWATER COURSE DEADLINE
30 **Monday, deadline for registration**
FMI Burt Levy (612)729-8874.

MAY

MONTHLY DIRECTORS MEETING
2 **Wednesday 7:00 - 10:30 P.M.**
All members welcome.
Jim Robinson's (612)588-5402
4421 36th Ave N. Minneapolis

HUT! WRITING MEETING
3 **Thursday 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.**
Need summer heat and insect ideas.
Winnie DauSchmidt's (612)644-6115
1679 W. Minnehaha Ave.,St.Paul, Mn.

KINNICKINNIC RIVER
5 **Saturday @W,B, Class I & II.**
Continuous class I & II rapids,
Swift with lots of turns.
Trip Leader Ed Lantis
FMI Jon Jan Hankas (612)436-7601

RED CEDAR AND CHIPPEWA RIVERS WISC.
5-6 **Saturday-Sunday @Q,N,**
Colfax to Downsville to Durand.
Trip Leader Nels (612)781-4009.

SNAKE RIVER
6 **Sunday @W,B-I, Class I & III.**
Will paddle Upper and Lower canyon falls sections.
Can portage the Class III's.
Trip Leader Mike Pease (612)222-3191.

ROOT RIVER
6 **Sunday @Q,B,**
Leader Ardel Gorman (507)433-7467.

RAPID RIDERS BUSINESS MEETING
8 **Tuesday 7:30 P.M.**
John Wexler's (612)722-7069
2923 16th Ave.S. Minneapolis

NORTH SHORE RIVERS
11,12,13 **Fri.-Sun. @W,I-A, Class I-IV.**
Maybe some class V's.
Leader John Wexler (612)721-8846.

BASIC CANOEING COURSE
12 **Saturday 10 A.M.**
Showboat landing on Mississippi River.
FMI Burt Levy (612)729-8874.

MINNEHAHA CREEK
12 **Saturday @Q,N-I (water level),**
Leader Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

NOATUK RIVER AND BROOKS RANGE
14 **Monday 6:30-8:30 P.M.**
"FAR NORTH ADVENTURE" SERIES
at Stillwater Public Library
223 N. 4th St. Stillwater MN
Free to public
Sponsored by Wilderness Inquiry Assoc.
FMI Don Mitchell (612)433-5367

RAPID RIDER ACTIVITY MEETING
15 **Tuesday, St Paul Campus Student Union**
7 P.M. Whitewater Orientation Class
8 P.M. film by Bill Mason
PATH OF THE PADDLE: DOUBLES WHITEWATER

WHITEWATER CLASS, BOIS BRULE RIVER, WI
18-20 **Fri-Sun @Q,B,**
FMI Paul Rem (612)645-3538

RIVER RESCUE TECHNIQUES
19-20 **Saturday- Sunday**
In Water/On Water practical workshop
$40. for instruction and food.
See article page 2.
Minnesota Outdoor School
Sandstone MN (612)245-2648.

UPPER IOWA RIVER, IOWA
19-20 **Sat-Sun @Q,B,**
Family cruise; magnificent scenery.
Leader Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

JENSEN HANDICAP
21 **Sunday 12 noon**
MCA's original event,
held every year since 1961
River Park, 83rd Ave.N. & 252
FMI Karl Ketter (612)636-8116

CROW WING RIVER
26,27,28 **Sat-Mon @Q,B,**
Nimrod to Staples.
Mike Gilman (612)428-4400.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

28 Full Moon

Ely Canoe Derby

Olympics begin

A great time

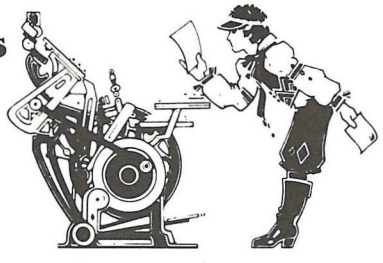
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GOIN' FOR IT SOLO

by Bruce Kunz

They say a convert is the worst, whether it's politics, religion, or philosophy. Like the friend who quit smoking four months ago and now drives everyone crazy trying to get them to stop. Well, we can blame Bob Brown for this one, he's converted me to SOLO canoes.

I honestly believe that within the next five years, almost all serious canoers will have at least one solo canoe in their repertoire. This year there are 111 different solo canoes for sale, (as listed in the December issue of Canoe magazine). Coupled with this is the fact that our own MCA members are turning out solo designs faster than we can build the prototypes.

Make no mistake about it, many of these designs are of the highest quality available anywhere. These are not just solo canoes. These are personal canoes, tailored to a persons height, weight, skill, and the intended use.

Whether you buy one or build one, I urge you to come out with us and try one. Our building techniques have changed radically in the last two years. Its to the point where the average garage builder, for $125. or less, can turn out a cedar strip solo canoe that will weigh from 35 to 45 pounds.

This puts the solo within the reach of just about anyone who wants one. It also provides the tripper, male or female, young or old, with a canoe they can easily portage over longer, more difficult sections of the BWCAW - leaving the other people far behind.

Solo canoeing, for those of you who have not yet tried it, does not mean you have to canoe alone. It gives you a high degree of personal freedom. After all, how many of you tandem canoe paddlers would own a tandem bicycle?

Here, in the Twin Cities area, we have been blessed with one of the finest canoe training grounds I have ever seen, and its right in our front yard. It's called Minnehaha Creek. If you try to run it against the grain, it will teach you quickly how to paddle or it will get you very wet. An upstream run from Lake Nokomis to I35W is not a Sunday cruise, it's a real workout; but it will teach you things about moving water that are best

learned where it's only waist deep. The old adage about 'learning how to paddle down stream by first paddling up it' is very true. I've paddled canoes for almost 40 years, but, since going solo, I'm starting to learn about canoeing. There's a big difference! Going solo by yourself is fun, but sharing the experience with others, (in their solo canoes), is a pure delight.

So I'll get to the point of this article. Because we are so flexible, (we don't have to worrying about finding a bow paddler on short notice), we do a lot of day trips and half day trips on the spur of the moment. I'd like to establish a directory of those of you who have a solo canoe or are interested in getting one. We now have some extra canoes if you'd like to try them.

If I can get names, phone numbers, type of canoe, and relative skill level, I'll disseminate it to all participants. That way when the opportunity for a short notice trip comes up, we'll know who to call. I'll be leading some solo only, long weekend (3-4 days) trips into the BWCAW this season. I plan to keep them small, 4 or 5 at the most, so lets paddle together and get to know one another better. Now is the time, my friends, winter is over and May is a good month to build a canoe. Make it a solo this year and start your planning now. Get in touch and get liberated in 1984,
PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE!

Call or write: Bruce T. Kunz, 4377 Orion Lane, Eagan MN 55123. (612)454-7207.

MISSISSIPPI CANOE CHALLENGE

Verlen Kruger and partner Valerie Fons will attempt to set a new record for canoeing down the Mississippi River. They have a support crew but they will need some help along the way. Local guides, telephone use, and hot showers would be greatly appreciated. They will be running Minnesota waters the first week of May. If your residence is anywhere close to the river, and you would like to help, contact Bob Brown (612)432-7557. They will arrive in the cities about mid April.

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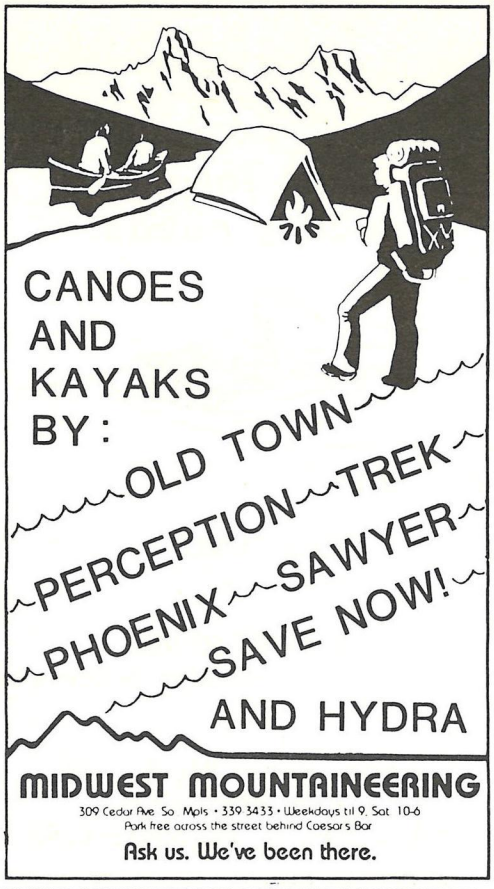
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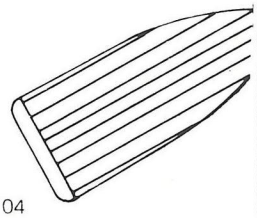
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CRUISIN' ALONG

- Jim Robinson, Cruising Director

WHERE WERE YOU?

The 1983 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 of upcoming cruises. The responsibility for organizing a cruise rests on 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 day trips but have the 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 level. 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 1984 Cruising Calendar is already looking impressive (See pages 10-11 this issue). 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.

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

Whitewater cruises are scheduled by the Rapid Riders Cruising Director Mike Vande Vyver. For more information on Whitewater cruises contact Mike at (612)922-7633.

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

QUIETWATER CRUISING PROGRAM

QUIET CRUISES SLIDE PRESENTATION AND EQUIPPIN' FOR TRIPPIN'
A Minnesota Canoe Association Program

No splash, no crash, just quiet cruising down the gentle streams. The slides and discussion will rekindle the memories. You will see slides on several rivers in Minnesota, the Namekagon in Wisconsin and the Upper Iowa in Iowa. Whet your appetite for cruising on these rivers during this next canoe season.

Come see what real canoeing is about. There will be a program about equipping your canoe for day trips and for canoe-camping trips.

Camping outfitters from the Twin Cities area will have several displays set up showing their camping and tripping wares. We will have books about rivers and canoeing on display for your viewing.

This inviting program is scheduled for Saturday April 14th from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. at the Brooklyn Center Civic Center at 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway. FMI call Jim Robinson at (612)588-5402.

THE HARBINGER

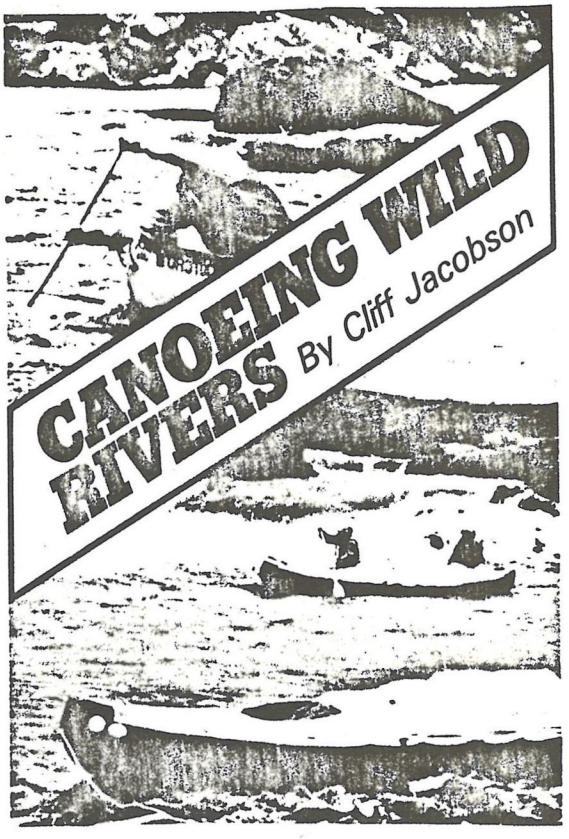
by Ken Espersen

On a day in the middle of April 1983 some 20 canoes-plus, left Cty Rd H and Hwy 10 after shuttling and "riceing." The water was quite high; the weather was warm and sunny.

My capable partner was not my youngest son this year (baseball tryouts), but my oldest son suddenly appeared on the creek with a partner (he has to go every year) and, unknown to them, they would find out how cold the creek can be in April. The creek was high and not many obstructions, although one branch gave a test to one canoe made of ABS plastic. We all had food and beverage at Locke Park in Fridley and said our welcome to the summer of '83.

So get your canoe and gear ready and be a part of the "Harbinger of Summer" on the 28th of April. We will meet at Hwy 10 and Cty Rd H at 10 a.m.

I invite you all on this "Rice and Iron" weekend (the AYH 18th annual "Minnesota Ironman" ison April 29. I'll be there along with 2000 plus others - come on along. Call Ken at (612)645-8463 to sign up for this cruise.

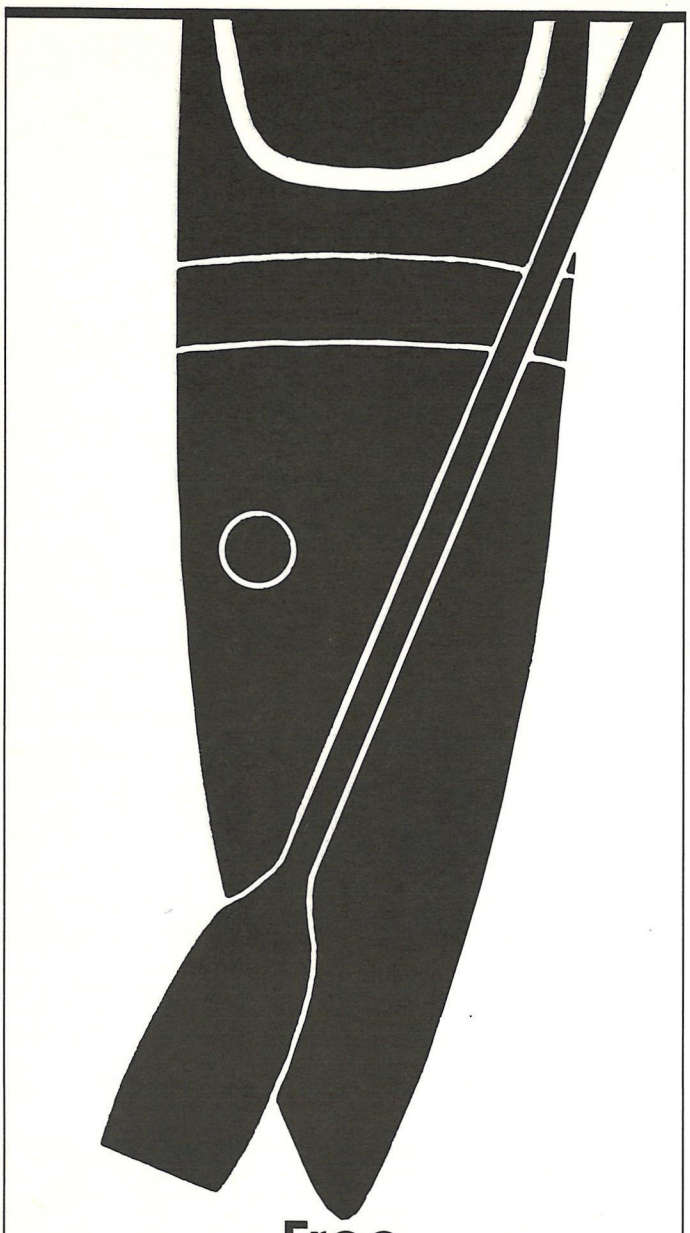


THIS IS A BOOK THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!

Unlike any other canoe book! Contains no information on "how to paddle"! Instead, there's a wealth of never before discussed topics: picking a crew, outfitting the canoe, building canoe covers, waterproofing gear (inexpensively!), solo tripping in a solo canoe, expert camping skills, traveling the barren lands, bush roads...plus advice from all the top North American wilderness paddlers.

Appendices contain absolutely everything you could want to know. Paperback, 327 pages; scores of spectacular photos, many in color. A thoroughly honest and useful book.

Retail price is $14.95. Special price to MCA members for this autographed first edition classic is just $14.50 (includes packaging and mailing). Offer ends June 1,'84. 2 week delivery. Cliff Jacobsen, 928 West 7th St., Hastings MN 55033.



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WHITEWATER EXPO'84-- WHAT A DAY

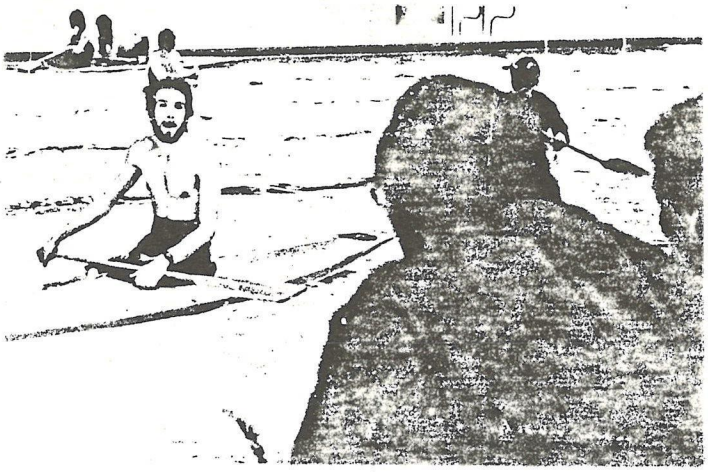
by Burt Levy

For many of us involved in the program, the day started off at 7:30 AM as we loaded boats onto our cars (to the astonished looks from neighbors) and made last minute stops to pick-up other equipment. We converged on Brooklyn Center Civic Center at 9 A.M. and, after hauling everything inside, set about stringing ropes from the rafters from which we hung our display boats. As time went on our exhibitors; Midwest Mountainerring, Ketter Canoeing, Cannon Paddles, and the DNR made their areas ready for show time.

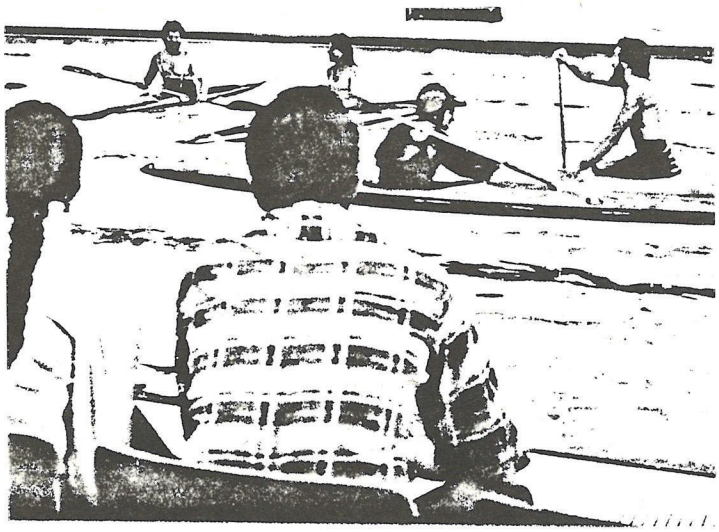
Then the moment we simultaneously looked forward to and dreaded arrived. High noon - the doors opened and, yes indeed, people started to arrive. In all we had 182 people register for the door prize, a quality canoe paddle from Cannon Paddles which was won by Winnie DauSchmidt. We estimate that our crowd actually numbered around 250 throughout the day. People came from the north, Grand Marias, to the south, Austin, and from the east, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to the west, New Castle, Colorado. Quite a showing, particularly for the season.

Special thanks must be extended to all of the Rapid Riders who participated. Many put in countless hours preceeding the show and 12+ hours the day of the show. Our sincere gratitude goes to Kathy Flesher of BCCC, Jim Maves, Bill Zachman and Pooh Olson from the DNR, Nichols Productions for their great movie "Fast and Clean", Mike Vande Vyver, John Ridge from EMS, Rick Korinek and crew, the folks who kept the dogs hot and the chips crisp, Hoigaards, and of course our exhibitors and the miscellaneous people and businesses who gave additional support.

Now that it is all over, we are already planning for next year's show. We would like your feedback, both positive and negative, about this year's program. We also need ideas for next years events. So take a moment to drop a note to the MCA or buttonhole a Rapid Rider to express your ideas so we can make this program even bigger and better next year.



Rick Korinek explains the finer points of Eskimo rolling and performance paddling at the Whitewater Expo '84.



Decked boaters perform various maneuvers before a fascinated audience at the Whitewater Expo '84.

KAYAK CLASS RESULTS

- Mike Pease, Kayak Rolling Instructor

Congratulations to you hardworking people who completed the kayak class in February! Your strong effort enabled many of you to master the techniques for doing an Eskimo Roll. You will all be able to continue to refine your kayaking skills by participating in the many river running trips planned for the upcoming season.

Our special thanks to the enthusiastic instructors who took the time to share their kayaking expertise, and to EMS Lob Pine for providing some of the necessary equipment.

For those that were unable to attend last month's class, kayak rolling will be offered again in the late summer.

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1984 MCA CRUI

CALENDAR RIVER RATING CODE

example:**@Q,I-A (trees,cold)**
@ = code following
Q = quiet water; **W** = Whitewater
I-A =skill level required: **B**eginner, **N**ovice, **I**ntermediate, **A**dvanced
( ) = special conditions/rating

WHITE & TOTOGATIC RIVERS, WISC.
April 13,14,15 Fri.-Sun.,
@W,B-I Class I & II
Special EXPERT EXHIBITION Run at end
Trip Leader John Wexler (612)722-7069
Asst. Mike Vande Vyver (612)922-7633

SHINGLE CREEK CRUISE
April 21 Saturday
@Q,I-A (portages, dam, trees)
Boone Ave. to Mississippi
Scenic variety, maneuvering, dan drop
Trip Leader Bob Bowman (612)561-7842

WOLF & PESHTIGO RIVERS, WISC.
April 27,28,29 Fri-Sun,
@W,I-A Class II & III
Whitewater Instructors cruise
Trip Leader John Wexler (612)722-7069
Asst. Burt Levy (612)729-8874

RICE CREEK CRUISE
April 28 Saturday
@Q,N-I, (trees, bends)
Trip Leader Ken Esperson (612)645-8463

BRULE RIVER TROUT SCOUT,WISC.
April 28 Saturday
@W,N-I, Class I, (cold)
4th Annual Twin Ports cruise
Stones Bridge to DNR campground
Scenic, wildlife, easy
Leader Dave Spencer (218)624-3413.

WHITEWATER ALERT
Due to the variable nature of water levels and paddler's whimsy, many of this season's whitewater trips are not on the calendar. Up to date information can be obtained by attending Rapid Riders meetings or calling the officers listed in the Rapid Riders news in the HUT!

CRUISE - HOT - LINE

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION &

KINNICKINNIC RIVER
May 5 Saturday
@W,B, Class I & II.
Continuous class I & II rapids,
Swift with lots of turns.
Trip Leader Ed Lantis
FMI Jon Jan Hankas (612)436-7601

RED CEDAR AND CHIPPEWA RIVERS, WISC.
May 5-6 Saturday-Sunday
@Q,N,
Colfax to Downsville to Durand.
Trip Leader Nels (612)781-4009.

ROOT RIVER
May 6 Sunday
@Q,B,
Leader Ardel Gorman (507)433-7467.

SNAKE RIVER
May 6 Sunday
@W,B-I, Class I & III.
Will paddle Upper and Lower canyon falls sections.
Can portage the Class III's.
Trip Leader Mike Pease (612)222-3191.

NORTH SHORE RIVERS
May 11,12,13 Fri-Sun
@W,I-A, Class I-IV.
Maybe some class V's.
Leader John Wexler (612)722-7069

MINNEHAHA CREEK
May 12 Saturday
@Q,N-I (water level),
Leader Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

WHITEWATER CLASS ON BOIS BRULE RIVER
May 18-20 Fri-Sun
@Q,B,
FMI Paul Rem (612)645-3538

UPPER IOWA RIVER, IOWA
May 19-20 Sat-Sun
@Q,B,
Family cruise; magnificent scenery.
Leader Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

SING CALENDAR

(612) 379-7073

& NORTH STAR SKI TOURING CLUB

CROW WING RIVER
May 26,27,28 Sat-Mon
@Q,B,
Nimrod to Staples.
Mike Gilman (612)428-4400.

BANNING RAPIDS OF KETTLE RIVER
June 3 Sunday
@W, N-I,
Beginning Whitewater Class Graduation
Survivor's party following.
FMI Paul Rem (218)645-3538.

CROW WING RIVER
June 9-10 Sat-Sun
@Q,B,
Shell City to Nimrod.
Leader Bill Marcoullier (612)789-0074.

GOVERNOR'S CRUISE
June 16 Saturday
@Q,B, (tentative)

BIG FORK RIVER
June 29 to July 4 Sat-Wed
@Q,N-I
Long distance paddling;
moderate whitewater; canoe camping.
Leader Al Gustaveson (612)778-8525.

ST CROIX RIVER
June 30-July 1 Sat-Sun
@Q,B,
Taylors Falls to Stillwater,
Easy cruise;
Camp at Wm. O'Brien State Park.
Leader Mike Gilman (612)428-4400.

MINNESOTA RIVER
July 14 Saturday
@Q,B,
Belle Plain to Chaska, Easy Cruise,
Leader Mike Gilman (612)428-4400.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
July 22 Sunday
@Q,B,
Camden to UofM, Aquatennial time,
Leader Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
August 4 Saturday
@Q,B,
Monticello to Dayton,
Potluck picnic afterwards at Gilman's,
Leader Mike Gilman (612)428-4400.

NAMEKAGON AND ST. CROIX RIVERS, WISC.
August 11-12 Sat-Sun
@Q,B,
Old Howell to Riverside; T-bridge to Riverside.
Easy cruise; family fun.
Leader Winnie DauSchmidt (612)644-6115.

BETTY KETTER'S MOONLIGHT CRUISE.
August or September
@Q,N.
FMI call Betty Ketter (612)561-2208

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
August 18 Saturday
@Q,B,
Camden to Fort Snelling State Park,
Presidents Cruise,
Leader Venice Barsness (612)588-5402.

MISSISSIPPI CANOE TOUR
September 16 Sunday
(tenative date)
St.Cloud to Minneapolis.
FMI ??????????????????

KICKAPOO RIVER
Sept 21-23 Fri-Sun
@Q,N (distance),
Stueben and Ontario, Wisconsin,
Date uncertain watch Aug/Sept HUT!.
Leader Winnie DauSchmidt (612)644-6115.

ST CROIX COLOR CRUISE
Oct 13-14 Sat-Sun
@Q,B,
Biggest event of the year.
FMI call Jim Robinson (612)588-5402.

ED. NOTE: The 1984 Cruising Calendar lists all trips, quiet water and white water, that are presently scheduled. Clip it out and post it prominantly; then, plan ahead for these exciting events. Watch the HUT! for more details about these cruises and for other cruises as they are scheduled.

WHITEWATER RAPIDS CANOEING RIDERS

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

BEGINNING WHITEWATER

by Burt Levy, Education & Safety Director

This year's beginning whitewater course for canoes and kayaks is going to be the best and most comprehensive instruction on the subject that MCA has ever offered.

The class is already half full. Send your money ($40/person), as soon as possible to reserve your space, to Paul Rem, 1845 W. Larpenteur, St. Paul, MN 55113. Please include your name, address, and phone. Also indicate if you will be paddling canoe or kayak and if you have both a boat/partner, a boat/no partner, or no boat/partner.

April 17 7:00 P.M. at EMS Lob Pine, Roseville. Discussion on what gear you will need, general orientation, menu for Brule weekend, and slides of the Bois Brule and Banning Rapids.

April 30 Registration deadline.

May 15 7 P.M. at U of M St. Paul Campus Student Center Auditorium. General orientation followed at 8 P.M. with "Path of the Paddle" movies. Maps for Brule & Banning.

May 19 & 20 Leave for Bois Brule late Friday afternoon. On the water Saturday & Sunday learning paddling techniques, how to read whitewater, eddy turns, ferrying, surfing, and self rescue. House on the river for headquarters and camping. Meals will be provided. Canoe rental is available.

June 2 Optional for those who are a bit more advanced. St. Louis River. Leave late Fri. afternoon.

June 3 Graduation at Banning Rapids, Kettle River. Survivors party to follow at Banning Junction.

More information and course outlines will be available at the April 17 & May 15 classes. If you have any questions call Burt Levy (612)729-8874.

1984 KAYAK SLALOM RACE SCHEDULE

April 21, 22 - **PESHTIGO WILDWATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** - Athelstone, WI. This is a half hour race straight down the river. Expect Class II, III to Class IV.

April 28, 29 - **WOLF RIVER SLALOM** - Langlade, WI. This race is intermediate skill level and a reasonably reliable roll is a good asset to have in this race. Spectator vantage points are excellent throughout the course.

Sept. 8, 9 - **ST. CROIX SLALOM** - Taylors Falls, MN. This is the one and only Minnesota whitewater race. This is a great race for paddlers of all skill levels. Usually water is relatively warm.

Oct. 6, 7 - **LAST DITCH SLALOM** - Langlade, WI. Intermediate slalom - This is a race for new and veteran paddlers. Lots of fun events are planned during and after race.

For more information on these races, contact John Wexler (612)722-7069

Mississippi Mud

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG DISTANCE CANOE RACERS
President: Karl Ketter (612)636-8116/561-2208
MUD Editor: Jenny Graham (612)729-3475
Membership: Steve Nelson (612)822-4164/333-5336
Rookies: John Wexler (612)872-8282.

ON THE RIVER AGAIN Jenny Graham

Welcome back to paddling season, everybody! Where have you all been? Oh...you say it's me who's been gone. Well that's true enough. I've been caught up in the maelstrom that is the life of a college student, but it's time to extricate myself from all that. Time to put down the pen and take up the paddle...time to exchange blackboards for vistas of rivers winding endlessly toward the sea...time for soggy clothes strewn all over the house, all of the time, the reindoctrination of calluses, back muscles and cold feet. And I've been looking forward to it all winter!

I started paddling the last part of Feb. when we had one of those balmy thaws. It was cold on the water, but enough sunshine makes 30` seem quite reasonable. The Mississippi was open all the way down to the Ford Dam, so Al and I were able to get a good 1.75 hours in each session. It's not too pleasant to paddle much longer than that the first few times out, when the weather's chilly and the body is still adjusting to the "new" motions.

On February 25, four teams showed up down at the river flats - Al DuBois and Jim Pomroy ("What!" said Al Rudquist, "Pomroy out in February?" Jim is always getting razzed about the fact that he practices so little - it's really because of his job. Secretly everyone is relieved because he's such a good paddler at 150 hrs/season - just think what a superstar he'd be at 400!) Jeff DuBois and Anne Rudquist (look out you guys, Anne's getting serious - going to the gym daily and vowing to buy a paddle this year!)

Mike and Sheila were there. They turned in some good results in X-C skiing this winter .Sheila said the paddling didn't feel too bad, but her body wished she'd make up her mind what she wanted it to do - swimming, skiing, paddling, or what!! Mike said it was nice to be out again, too, but the boat just didn't seem to respond. "Feels like I'm paddling a log!" he explained. I had to agree with that one.

Al and I made up the fourth team, grinding along in Al's old white cruiser. Overall, it's a sound canoe, but it's got at least 5 pounds of patches on it, no flotation whatsoever since he ground out the waterlogged foam core last spring, and a rear footbrace that isn't quite solid though it's triply reinforced with wood, metal and rope. "But hey!" says Al, always the optimist, "Just think how great it'll feel to get into the pro-boat later on!" That's right, I thought. I always like to beat my head against the wall - feels so good when I stop. (Just for that Al will probably tell me to find a new partner. No! No! I didn't mean it! Really! It was a perfect training hull - 5 years ago - ha, ha, ha.)

As we scrimmaged upstream from the Ford Dam, vying for a choice ride, avoiding miniature icebergs and the unyeilding ice stretching out from the bank, Al DuBois said happily, "You know, I feel pretty good. Practically in mid-season form!"

The intensity of the pace increased. A tight pack of three canoes formed. Jim was squeezed back a wave.. "Come on, Al!" shouted Jim. "Let's see some of that mid season form!" I heard that and kept stroking, trying to recall how to paddle hard and keep myself dry. Jim's white canoe never did sprint up to us, though. I guess mid-season form dies fast in February.

MORNING PADDLING SESSIONS -

Anyone interested in weekday morning paddling sessions? There are several people whose schedules allow this - let's get together. **Call Bob Brown or Jenny Graham (647-0141) if you can come or need a partner.**

THE DULUTH TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN PORTS CHAPTER

President: Rick Luck, 18 W. Owatonna Street, Duluth, MN 55803 724-7992
Cruising: Liz & Fred Freeman, 525-6486
Whitewater: Sue Marsh, 879-5581
Racing: Jim Wheeler, 722-8010



TWIN PORTS APRIL

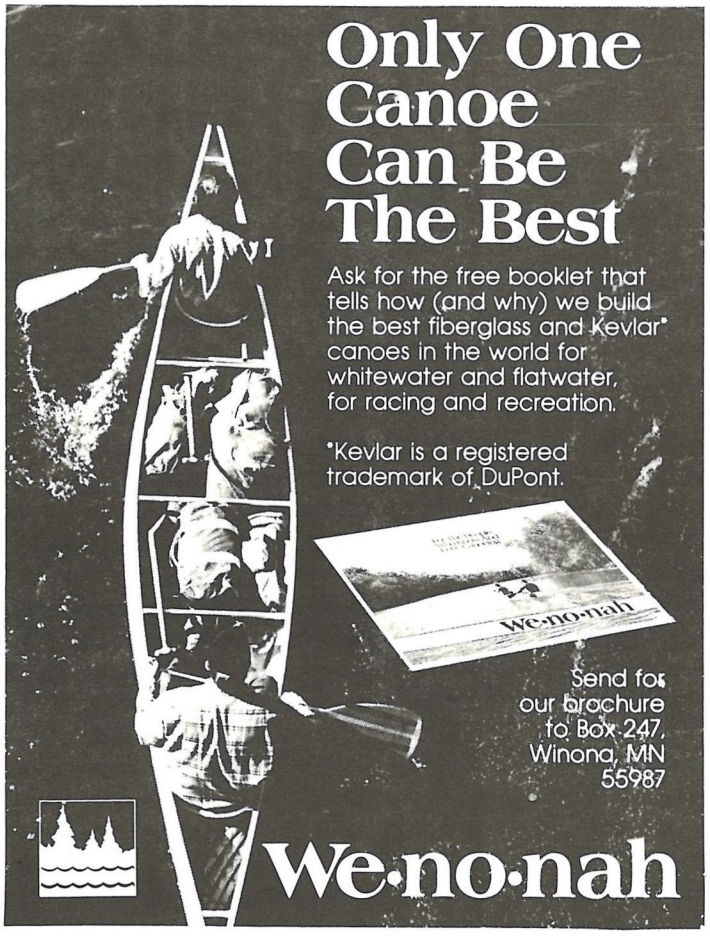
The fourth annual Brule River Trout Scout will be Saturday, April 28th. This is a leisurely paddle from Stones Bridge to the DNR campground along the upper portion of the Brule River. It's basically flatwater paddling but there are several sets of small rapids. The rapids may be small, but they've been the downfall of several of us in the past, so bring spare clothes in a waterproof bag. Also bring a picknick lunch since we won't be returning to Duluth before mid-afternoon.

(Continued next page)

If the timing is right, there's a chance we'll see some trout spawning along the shallow shoreline. We've also seen eagles and deer on past trips along with numerous turn-of-the-century cabins and estates. Don't bother bringing any fishing equipment though, because the season is still closed on this portion of the river.

We'll meet at Perkins in Superior, Wisconsin at 9 A.M. for caravaning. If you plan on having breakfast there please allow enough time so you will be ready to leave by 9:00. The Spencer brothers will be leading the trip so if you have any questions you can give Dave a call at (218)624-3413.

As part of the Duluth-Thunder Bay "Friendship Games", we have been invited to Thunder Bay the weekend of June 2nd and 3rd to participate in some form of 'low-key' canoe race. Our Thunder Bay hosts are wondering if we are interested? They haven't worked out many of the details yet, but it would probably be a short race followed by a clinic covering different aspects of canoeing. It sounds like a great excuse to plan a weekend in Thunder Bay. Please get ahold of Rick Luck if you think you're interested. More details will be given as they become available.



BACK TO THE BASIC: SKILLS

by Cliff Jacobson



"I discovered the canoe at the age of twelve at a rustic Scout camp nestled deep in the cedar swamps of northern Michigan. It was 1951--too early to mourn the passing of wood/canvas canoes and solid ash paddles. I'd heard of aluminum canoes, of course, but I'd never seen one. Pack frames, lugged hiking boots, and lightweight down sleeping bags were a novelty.

The outdoor life was simpler then. We had no tubes of 'fire-ribbon' or hurricane resistant nylon tents. No bullet-proof canoes, unbreakable paddles, or freeze-dried filet mignon. Canoe camping was a rough and ready endeavor, though not nearly so demanding as some modern writers suggest.

In those days my outfit consisted of a surplus military wool sleeping bag and poncho, canvas pup tent, aluminum cook-kit, Scout hand axe, and a rag tag assortment of second hand woolens. Even if sophisticated equipment had been available, my friends and I had no money for it. So instead of buying gear, we practiced camping skills. Skills for rigging a snug camp in the teeth of icy April rains; skills for making fire with a single match! We had to cope with what we had. So we read every wood-craft book in print, we listened intensely to the advice of those more experienced than ourselves. Ultimately, we learned 'wooodsmanship'.

Things are different today. Now the emphasis is on 'equipment' not know-how. (I recently checked the contents of a popular backpacking book. Over 90 percent of its pages were devoted to camping gear and its use.) Polyester sleeping bags and garments become a substitute for ones inability to keep down gear dry in rain or a canoe upset. Fire-starting chemicals are the alternative to correct fire-making. And sledge tough canoes take the place of proper paddling technique. Somehow, I think we've lost something of value in our search for better ways."*

Each year, I receive dozens of requests for information about a particular river or piece of equipment. Some questions relate to river logistics, though most are directed towards specific gear needs. Invariably, the theme centers around what tent, canoe, packsack, or stove is best for an extended trip. What's the most waterproof raingear? Most versatile footgear?

The assumption is that if you have the "right" (which frequently means most expensive) equipment, you'll make a successful canoe trip. But if you're "inappropriately" equipped--discomfort, danger...and possibly death will follow.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Granted, the proper gear is important, and the farther you get from the beaten path, the more important it becomes. But strip out the arm-chair glory and you'll discover that the real determinant of success in the wilds is in-depth knowledge of the outdoors and a battery of highly specific, well practiced wilderness canoeing skills. Skills for handling your canoe in a running sea and boiling rapid; skills for picking your way between the maze of islands on a fog-locked lake; skills for knowing when it's time to portage!

Fact is, you can get along quite nicely with a pack full of mediocre gear if you know how to efficiently wring out the last bit of utility from each item. Take a spin around a typical Boundary Waters lake after a major storm and check out the inhabitants. Search the shoreline for sagging tents, and for nylon clotheslines, heavy with the weight of drenched sleeping bags. Look for clear brightly burning fires--not the smoke of multiple failures.

It won't take you long to discover what you suspected all along--that those who best survived the storm, relied more on know-how than equipment. The dry camp, cheery fire, and smell of freshly brewed coffee, all too frequently comes from an obscure site on which rests an unsophisticated tent of 1960's vintage--and a crew of woods-wise folks who have a wealth of outdoor knowledge and a lack of high-tech gear.

Granted, it's fun to be an "equipment freak". When I find a particular item I like, I carry the banner boldly and display it loudly to all who will listen. Nonetheless, it's only under the most severe outdoor conditions--and when you've done everything absolutely correct-- that the gilt edge of high-tech gear comes into play. Certainly, its more fun to trip with all the modern cutsey items. New "toys", after all, bring more joy than old ones.

Manufacturers are eager to suggest that equipment should come before skills -- indeed, that equipment can supplant skills. That's sound marketing advice to be sure, but it won't gaurantee your comfort on a wilderness river.

Next month, I'll share with you an unlikely truth-- the joy of soloing a Canadian river with just 55 pounds of low-tech (pre 1960) equipment. Just "me and old 'Mantoy'"...and a packful of old relics. What fun it was!

*From CANOEING WILD RIVERS, by Cliff Jacobson. ICS Books, 1984. Distributed by Stackpole Books, Inc.

See special offer (page 7) to MCA members in this issue of HUT!

SHINGLE CREEK CRUISE

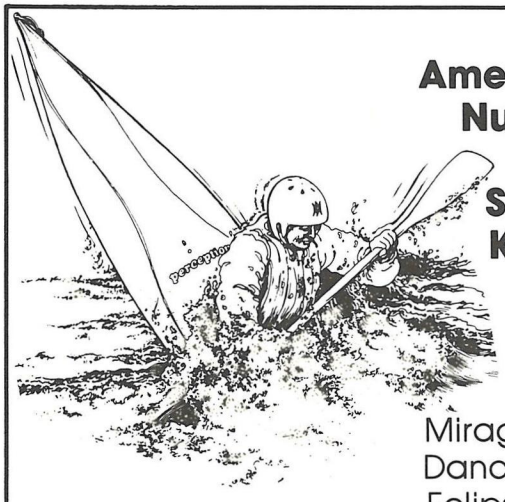
They told me it couldn't be done. Most people think that Shingle Creek is non-canoeable. These people are mistaken. Early Spring provides us a very unique way to explore our cities.

This cruise has a lot to offer in terms of variety: parks, one small lake, fields, marshes, industrial areas, and residential areas.

Cold water combined with the required maneuvering skills and a sharp ledge dam rule out novices and delicate boats. There are several portages around other small dams which average about fifty feet each.

Cruise date is April 21st. Contact trip leader Bob Bowman at 561-7842 if you plan to join this cruise. Put in will be Freeway 694 and Boone Avenue North in Brooklyn Park. Take out will be under the Camden bridge at the Mississippi River.

@@@@@



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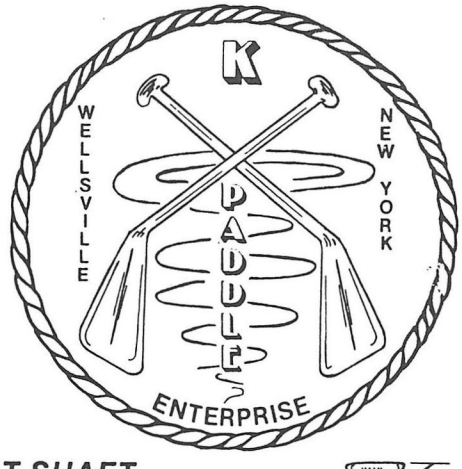
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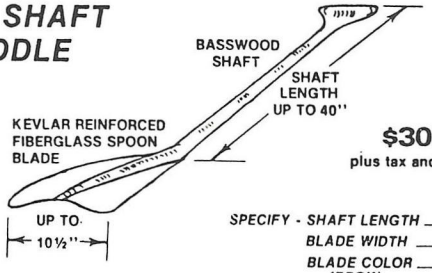
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BUILDERS NOTES

by Bob Brown

Come out, Come out! wherever you are. I'm trying to call in some canoe forms; and I'm not having much luck.

I know that there are dozens of forms laying around taking up room in garages. I'd like to see them made available to other members. Rent them, or loan them, or donate them to the MCA; but get them back to work. If you rent them, you can recoup some of the cost of making these forms, and you still retain your ownership of them.

I am starting a file on available forms. Give me a call, (612-432-7557), to let me know what you have. We will find builders who will be happy to use your forms.

by Bruce Kunz

The two most difficult tasks in building your first canoe are starting and getting up enough courage to begin glassing it. There's not much we can do to help you make that commitment to start building, but we sure can help you with the glassing. The whole process is intimidating to the first time builder. Bob Brown let his first canoe sit for weeks till he had a chance to learn from someone else just how to do it.

Thats one of the reasons we have a building director. As you are finishing your first canoe, give Bob or I a call and we'll arrange to have some experienced help on hand to get you through your first glassing job.

Don't call on Friday if you want to glass that weekend. Give us at least two weeks to line up some help. If you plan to build this spring, call us now and talk to us.

Both Bob and I will be glassing canoes of our own this spring, so you may be able to come and help, and also learn.

If you do the glassing yourself remember these rules. Glass when the weather is right, not because its the weekend and thats most convenient for you. If you have a heated shop you can control the weather. I glass when the temperature is between 60 and 85 degrees and the humidity is 50 percent or less. If its above 50 percent humidity, I don't glass because I don't like smokey looking canoes.

Good Luck! ..and keep in touch.

TRADING POST

The MINNESOTA CANOE RACER is now in circulation - a treasure trove of information and intriguing articles aimed at anyone at any level of long distance canoe racing. The booklet was coordinated by Karl Ketter, who did an excellent job with the assistance of Jerry Kassanchuk and Betty Ketter and others. Ketter Canoeing and the MCA have free copies. An excerpt from the table of contents: 1983 Race Results, 1984 Race Schedule, Racer Directory, articles on C-I racing, Poor Betty's Almanac, and more! Get it...read it!

Duluth Pack and Stuff bag liners. Finally, plastic liners sized right and made tough for canoeists. $.29 to $1.95. **R E I ,35W & 98th St. exit, Clover Shopping Center, Bloomington, (612)884-4315.**

Kayak: Perception Quest, medium volume, just like new. Includes 4 flotation bags and spray skirt. $450. or best offer. Call **Mike (612)428-4400 evenings.**

Wood canvas canoes, 18' Old Town and 16'. Both restoreable. Call **Ed (612)771-1278.**

Old Town CJ, wood trim, with cover. Very good condition. **Bob Brown (612)437-3150.**

18'6" Kevlar Sawyer Charger. Excellent condition. $950. **(515)232-2556 evenings.**

18'6" Mad River Canoe - Kevlar TW Special - Indian Brown with Mad River sail rig - Excellent condition plus extras - $1995 or offer - **Paul (612)224-0326.**

Donation to Education Safety Committee a canoe suitable for teaching and practicing boat rescue on rivers (plastic/Coleman, ABS or beat-up aluminum would be suitable). **Bek Kragh (612)929-9454**

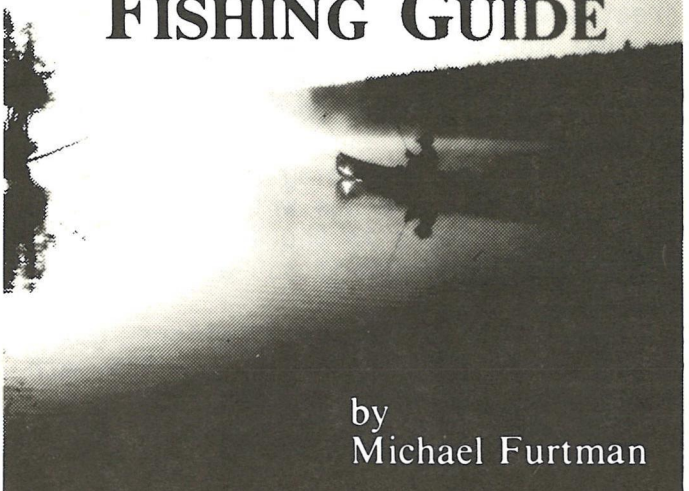
17' Jenson Weenonah fiberglass canoe, $535. new, used once, asking $400.
17' Old Town new $900. Asking $500.
Prijon Old Town Cruising Kayak $350.
Wanted: Slalom Kayak.
David Hoiland **(612)377-5253.**

The TRADING POST is for members. Submissions due by the 5th of the preceding month. First 20 words free, 10 cents each thereafter; make checks payable to MCA.

FOR SALE

A REAL DEAL, HERE AT LAST!
The last remaining hardbound copies of my now out-of-print book, WILDERNESS CANOEING & CAMPING have arrived. Originally $13.95; now just $6.50 (includes mailing and autograph--plus note, if you wish). Only 30 books left so grab 'em while they're hot. Immediate delivery!
Cliff Jacobsen, 928 West 7th St., Hastings MN 55033.

A BOUNDARY WATERS FISHING GUIDE



by
Michael Furtman

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Address _____

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City State Zip

(MN residents add 6% sales tax (54¢)) h1

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P.O. Box 3055, Duluth, MN 55803

MCA DIRECTORS

MARCH MEETING

by Verna Robinson, Secretary

President Venice Barsness called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Venice has scheduled a special meeting for the purpose of revising some MCA material. The meeting will be on March 21st from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. in the Civil Defense Building at 3524 Hennepin.

John Kopp, treasurer, gave copies of first quarterly report to members.

Bob Brown, building, said 232 people registered at the Builders Show - it was a great success. The show has outgrown the present location. There was discussion of other places to have programs. Bob showed how the new 'Building Book' is progressing.

Verlin Kruger is doing a Mississippi canoe challenge and has written asking for support volunteers in the area. Contact Bob at (612)432-7557 if you are interested.

Winnie DauSchmidt, publications, got a quote for binding the old HUTS - $15 each for about 16 volumes, (around $250.).

REI asked if the HUT! does book reviews. If someone is interested in reviewing books for us please contact Winnie at (612)644-6115.

Steve Stedman, membership, has completed conversion to micro computer for the membership roster. Reprinted renewal cards; Needs new chapter information sheets.

Harlan Nickerson, Public Relations, has notified the papers and radio stations about the March program. He will have all our trips announced in 'Outdoors Calendar' of the Minneapolis paper.

Al Gustavson, Vice President, reported from Becky Jackson that the AYH will not co-sponsor the Mississippi Canoe Tour; but they will help us promote it, and they will provide volunteers to be available at check points.

The Governor's cruise date and river are still not definite. Al is in touch with the DNR and Govenor's office on it.

Due to the present cost per copy of the HUT!, the directors voted to discontinue our policy of distributing HUTS to outfit stores - We will print only 100 copies of HUT over mailing list. We will distribute fliers and folders to the outfit stores regarding information about joining the MCA.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

William J Barnes	Eau Claire WI
Gail Bedell	Eau Claire WI
Patrick W. Butler	Rosemount MN
James W. Cotey	Norwood NY
Chad Dawson	Duluth MN
James L. Decker	Austin MN
Ross Deden	Red Wing MN
Gardner Ellis	Duluth MN
Mary Everett	Little Falls MN
Rodney Ewert	Apple Valley MN
Terry Fields	Eau Claire WI
Marvin Flarek	St Paul MN
Bob George	Stillwater MN
Dave Grantges	St Petersburg FL
John A. Hardie	Enfield NS CANADA
Eric Harman	Arlington WA
Daniel Harwood	St Loius Park MN
Wayne Hawthorn	St Paul MN
David Johnson	Aurora MN
Charles J. Kennedy	Coon Rapids MN
Stephen H. Larter	Apple Valley MN
Kristen Leaf	Roseville MN
Michael Link, Northwoods	Audubon
	Sandstone MN
Greg Luc	Minneapolis MN
Douglas S. Mann	Eden Prairie MN
Curtis J. Moe	Apple Valley MN
Mary Jo Mullen	St Loius Park MN
Steven B. Nelson	Minneapolis MN
Roger A. Normandin	Eagle Lake MN
C. W. Nyegaard	Hallock MN
William Phinney	Lakefield MN
Bob Picard	Andover MN
Dale Pomraning	Anoka MN
David Prois	Fridley MN
Jim Reese	River Falls WI
James Rogen	Minneapolis MN
Ken Rucker	Circle Pines MN
William Salveson	Solon Springs WI
Ruth Schaefer	New Ulm MN
Bob Schultz	Rosemount MN
Stephen R. Shyvers	Sunnyvale CA
Steve Sirr	Minneapolis MN
Michael W. Smith	Palmyra NJ
Robert S Sonier	Minneapolis MN
Judith Sonnheim	White Bear LakeMN
David K. Thobaben	Menomomie WI
Patrick M. Tompkins	Apple Valley MN
Marilyn Torkelson	Lakeville MN
Ronald J. Vargo	Maple Lake MN
Rich Wilkens	Coon Rapids MN
Harry G. Wilson	East Lansing MI
George J. Yauch	Minneapolis MN
Steven Yurista	Columbia Hghts MN
Bob Zoet	North Mankato MN

HUT! ADVERTISING RATES

PAGE SIZE	NUMBER ISSUES 1	3	6	12	WIDTH/HEIGHT
1/4	$25	$22	$20	$18	3½ x4¾
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MY SECOND CANOE

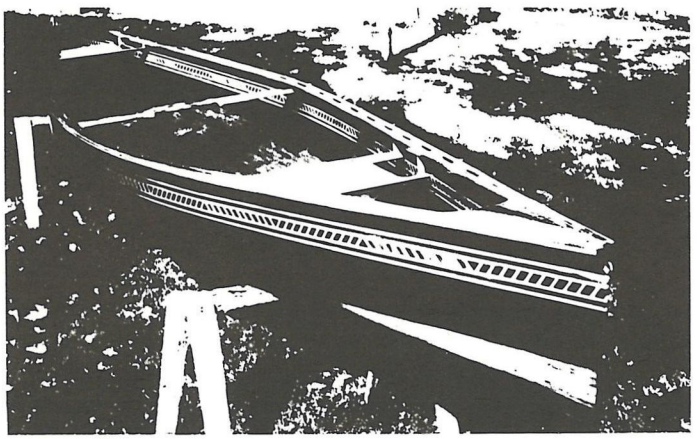
by Steve Zapf

"Build a CANOE?; No problem!" Thats what I said in August of '83. By the second week of September it was a problem.

I built my first canoe six years ago, with the help of my knowledgeable father, as a father/son project. In August when I had said, "no problem", I had forgotten how much my father had helped me.

My first canoe, an MCA Guide model, turned out very well and I was proud of it. After taking Second Place at the 1977 Builders Show, it survived several trips to the BWCA and many, many trips across other Minnesota lakes and rivers.

My new canoe was built by my girlfriend and I, with a little advice from my father. It was built off my Dads new revised Osprey plans. I find it handles better than my old one and it is also faster.



Our first problem was the design we had figured out for the side. Deciding on what you want on the side of your canoe is one thing; putting it there is another story. After figuring out that riddle, my girlfriend, Amy, and I spent ten hours putting 328 pieces into place. We used three different sized pieces in our design to form a band 3 inches high and 17 feet long on each side of my canoe. I won't tell you about the dozens of pieces we took out because they didn't fit.

Another problem we ran into was during the sanding process when a number of strips came UNglued and we had to reglue them and WAIT. This ate up time which we did not have to spare. The Color Cruise was coming closer and that was our target date. We must have been too stingy with the glue. I'll watch that next time.

The only other problem that plagued us was time. In August I had told Amy we could build the canoe in about three weeks with no problem. Now in September with just a week and a half to go before the Color Cruise I finally accepted my Dad's offer to make the seats. We were able to join the rest of the family on the Color Cruise.

Amy and I are very proud of our canoe, especially since it was the first time she was ever part of a project like that. There is something special about taking a pile of wood and making it into something of grace and beauty. When you launch your canoe for the first time, a feeling of pride flows through you; and it flows faster when your bow partner turns around, smiles, and says, "WE did it".

My advice to future builders is to allow yourself ample time to do a good job on your canoe. It is well worth it. Oh yes, one other item, don't let the phrase,"no problem" creep into your vocabulary until you are finished.

See you on the river.

Editors note: The plans for Mike Zapf's 17 foot OSPREY are now available from the MCA for $5.00. (See order form inside back cover.) First time builders should, also, check the MCA Canoe Building book.

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