

OHCRA Planning Meeting – 11/09/2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jock, Ted, Paul W., Tony Sands, George T., Paul K., Brad Buck & Son.

DISCUSSIONS:

George Bates:

Announcement was made to ensure that everyone knew of the passing of our good friend George Bates. It was suggested by several that a donation be made by OHCRA on behalf of George to the charity of his choice. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ted, 2nd by Paul K. to donate \$50 to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, WA. Motion passed. Also, George T. asked if we had Jim & Jody's current address, so cards could be sent. Paul W. provided an address. This was verified later when Jody paid us a short visit.

Treasury Report:

Paul provided and read the most current treasury report. Expenses were \$366.78 more than our income. A specific item expenditure inquiry was made by Ted to try to determine where some cost may be addressed. Our major expenses were/are the Newsletter, Summer Outing, AOHCA, and Website. After discussion it was decided that some things might be done to reduce some of our costs. The following ideas/conclusions were made:

- The Summer Outing is hereby discontinued. Turnout for 2003 was very low and the expenditures do not justify it further. We essentially do cookouts at each outing, anyway.
- The AOHCA was a one-time thing and none of our routine trips have such associated costs.
- Most cost associated with the Newsletter is for printing and mailing. We could save almost all of this if everyone with Website access would view and/or print it from our Website at "ohcra.org". We will ask Ernie to send out a reminder by email when the Newsletter has been issued. Ernie will continue mailing Newsletters to those without Website access.

Elections:

Discussed. Paul said that Justine indicated she would place info on the Website, but that she could no longer be secretary. Also, Dave Petrik is formally dropped as assistant. Ted agreed to take some notes and forward them to Justine, for the meetings that he is present. President and President Elect were discussed. Both Brad and Tony were encouraged to be candidates. No final actions were taken.

RAP:

George T. was asked by Paul W. what to do with a letter from the Cuyahoga River RAP (Remedial Action Plan) group. Per George it was only a request for an address update. Paul will handle this.

Letters:

Paul/Jock had letters regarding historical preservation donations and requesting water releases. After discussion, it was decided that OHCRA would not be making any water release requests and preservation is essentially part of our interest anyway, but we would not make any specific donations at this time.

State Representative Attendance:

Paul and Jock indicated that a state representative still has plans to attend one of our meetings. He wants to discuss an issue concerning building river access whenever any bridge is renovated, replaced, etc., and wants to foster group interest to support the idea. OHCRA is all for this and it was agreed that we should do all we can to foster this movement.

OHCRA Policy Issues

During the Mad River outing there was discussion about why some thought OHCRA outing attendance was down. One issue identified was that our pace was too fast, both for shuttles and on the river. And if we don't adjust things OHCRA participation will keep dwindling. We need to take more time to relax and enjoy the river, etc. These issues were discussed at some length at this meeting. The resulting consensus was that we have always felt OHCRA had a policy that everyone can go at their own pace. Those that want to go fast can, those that don't, don't have to. All can be and normally are accommodated. We will emphasize to the trip leaders that these issues are addressed by incorporating different paces into the shuttles (i.e. ensure proper vehicles are placed to allow slower paces, etc.). George T. raised an issue of safety if we have people scattered all up and down the river. This is another issue that all trip leaders must address, by ensuring anyone with questionable skills or unfamiliar with a stream have experienced escorts with them. It is felt that if we adjusted to the same policy as say SOFA, then we're not OHCRA, we're essentially SOFA. OHCRA was born of river and stream "tripping" and cross-country (state) adventures, not float trips. Unless we are on a tight schedule for some unusual reason our pace accommodates those of us that do like to go a lot slower. All paces are accommodated and still allow all to enjoy the tripping experience and the camaraderie. Those present feel all is still well with OHCRA, but any issues of concern by old, past or new members should be brought up and discussed. We do not want to lose any members, new or old, or alienate anyone. And, we hope we do not or have not lost anyone.

OHCRA Reunion:

Ted suggested that we consider planning a "big" OHCRA reunion. We need to contact "all" original, past, present, and new members. Those still living in Ohio and those that aren't. George T. agreed and suggested we shoot for doing this in 2005.

NEXT MEETING:

The next planning meetings are scheduled as follows (same place and time):

March 7, 2004

November 14, 2004

OHCRA 2004 SCHEDULE

April 24/25	Greenville Creek/Stillwater River	Ted Spradlin
May 15/16	Big Darby Creek	Jim Wolf
June 12/13	Olentangy River	Tony Sands
July 10/11	Fremont	Paul W./Paul K.
August	Little Miami River	Ted Spradlin
September	Little Muskingum River	George Tompkins
October	Florida Suwannee River	Brad Buck

Also: Paul would like us to consider a several day trip using the voyager canoes, perhaps on the Scioto River.

Safety related item for all to consider:

The following information concerning water speed should be kept in mind by everyone thinking about getting out on swift water.

“The strength of moving water increases exponentially when the current speed is doubled”.

Example:

10 mph can carry a 10-pound rock

20 mph can carry a 100-pound rock

Ted Spradlin

11/10/2003