



In The Year 2009

Volume 27

Fall days are warm and the nights are cold, and as the daylight fades earlier each evening, I'm reminded of the need to get my life ready for winter. The oil and antifreeze are checked in the vehicles and the garden is cleaned, turned with fresh manure and falling leaves.

Winterizing also applies to our canoeing gear. And here's a run down on how I get my gear ready for the long winter.

Canoes: First the entire canoe is washed clean. When completely dried, I rub both inside and outside with 303 Protectant. It protects our plastic or royalex materials from those harmful UV rays. Secondly I remove all wooden materials, IE seats, thwarts and yokes. If the woods varnish is worn, I'll reapply a coat or two of Marine Spar Varnish. And be sure to use a pipe cleaner to get varnish in those screw holes. On web seats I use 303 to help preserve them and varnish on the cane seats. Checking the bow and stern ropes completes my canoe winterization.

Paddles: I love my wood paddles and very seldom use anything else. As far as aluminum shafted paddles I just wash and dry them. But my Gray Owl, Bending Branches and Old Town wooden sticks take some time to care for. Many people use a completely varnished paddle. Just sand the finish with a very, fine grit sandpaper and apply a thin layer of varnish. After drying add one or two more coats. Just put them on lightly per layer instead of one big thick glob. I do not like the way a varnished paddle feels in my hand when it gets wet. So what I do is sand all the varnish off the grip and shaft of my wooden paddles. When I get down to bare wood and have them real smooth, I brush on

a mixture of one part "boiled linseed oil" to three parts paint thinner. The paint thinner or mineral spirits helps the boiled linseed oil penetrate the wood easier. Again use many thin coats. The blade still gets the coats of varnish. If my paddles get nicks, I just fill them with wood putty before applying the oil. It doesn't always match the wood of the paddle but it adds character.

Lifejacket: I have a new one this year so it doesn't need much attention, but I do like to wash off any dirt and grime. And don't forget to test your jacket to make sure it still keeps you afloat.

Throw rope: I pull the rope completely out of its bag and stretch it tight for a couple days. Then back in the bag for next year.

Tie down straps: I just check the buckles to make sure the spring is still holding and the strapping for nicks or cuts. You can also put 303 or ArmorAll on them to keep them from drying out.

There are many other outdoor items to check such as cook stoves, tents, etc., and to some people, the maintenance of their gear is a part of the enjoyment of their hobby.

Fall is my favorite season, but every year I feel sad knowing the canoes and equipment are in storage until spring. I know, you're thinking that people can paddle during Ohio's winters but I'm not one of them. Many other hobbies fill the winter months. One is planning and looking over maps while another is buying new gear for next year. I can't wait to get out next spring and use everything again.

Editor

Ohio Historical Canoe Route Association

2008 In Review

Another wonderful canoeing season has past and OHCRA members have made the best of it. New Members have come on board and we had 12 different outings.

Starting in January, Jock secured a cabin in the Hocking Hills area for the "Old Mans Cave Annual Winter Hike". After a very cold hike members returned to the cabin for good food and great company. Another winter outing is being planned again for 2009.

February found five of us up in Michigan enjoying the snow. Cross Country Skiing and snowmobiling in the best snow they have had in years. That was until Sunday morning, when we awoke to an ice storm. What a fun drive home! The cabin Lance found was very cozy and we didn't want to leave.

Ted, Connie, my wife, and I, made an eight hour drive to Madison Wisconsin in March. We visited Canoecopia, the largest paddle sports convention in the Midwest. They had neat seminars and anything you could wish to buy for paddling. It's easy to over spend at that place. A few weeks later, we hit the water on the Little Auglaize River with an outing Wil put together. March weather can be unpredictable but we got lucky.

Harold took us to the Little Beaver Creek in April. The water was high enough to paddle this time, unlike 3 years ago. Sure is beautiful over in that part of the state.

May found us on the Big Darby Creek paddling down to the Scioto River. The water was flowing high and fast which made the trip all the more enjoyable. Thanks to Jock for organizing the trip.

Paddling in the big city of Columbus was intimidating until we actually started running the Big Walnut Creek in June. You couldn't even tell the city was there except for the trash and the sound of vehicles. There is very little development along its shores. And where we camped, we could hear the starting bugle for the horse races at Scioto Downs. We also had the pleasure of celebrating Larry and Sophia's 51st wedding anniversary.

We had a double dose of fun in July starting with Jocks "White Man's Fire." As always, a huge fire and lots of good food and company.

The very next weekend we were camping at a KOA, complete with flush toilets and showers at Buckeye Lake. Putting Paul Wood's 27 ft Voyageur canoe to good use, we re-enacted the Buckeye Lake Pub Paddle. The last Pub Paddle was 16 years ago and Ted still has the shirt to prove it. And it still fits!

Always dependable in August, the spring fed Mad River provided the setting for that trip. Camping at Birch Bark Canoe Livery has never been a problem, but it was this year. Honda had reserved the entire place for a weekend outing so we ended up camping at Buck Creek State Park, northeast of Springfield. Little set backs like that won't stop OHCRA. We had a yearly record of 19 members present. Yah Hoo!!

September and the Cuyahoga River just seem to go together. Camp HI Canoe Livery was the base camp again this year. It rained all day Friday and Saturday but cleared up in time for a nice campfire Saturday evening. Thankfully it was a warm weekend and 13 members braved the rain to participate.

Wil had scheduled a trip on the St. Joseph River for October, but after scouting numerous logjams and low water, he "punted" to the Maumee River. We camped at Mary Thurston State Park and played on the "Mighty Maumee." It was just like paddling a lake, but nothing wrong with that. 13 members, 3 of them newbie's, enjoyed the sunny autumn days and cool nights. With an Oktoberfest themed potluck, we ate great.

Member participation greatly increased this year, as did our new members. It's great to see OHCRA surviving and growing after 27 years.

Thank you to everyone for all you have done to make our monthly outings fun, enjoyable and a memorable experience. To those members we did not see this year, please come join us. Next year is going to be even more exciting. And be sure to check our website for any last minute updates and changes.

As I like to say "A bad day canoeing beats a good day at work!" So come on out and dip those paddles.

Tony

www.ohcra.org

Life is like an hourglass glued to the table, so get out and paddle while you are still able.

2009 Trip Schedule

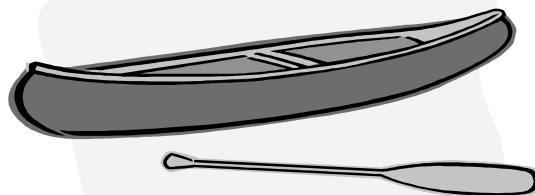
It's time to mark your calendars and gear up for another exciting canoeing season. If you have any questions about a planned trip or if you want to schedule a trip, call any number below. You can also send an e-mail to manager@ohcra.org and we will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Let's get on the water and see what's "Around the Bend"

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Contact</i></u>
January 17/18	Old Mans Cave Annual Winter Hike	Jock (740)385-4346 jockklinger@msn.com
Feb 28 / Mar 1	Winter In Michigan	Lance lancealot111@yahoo.com
March 21/22	Stillwater River	Wil (419)695-0411 wib@wcoil.com
April 18/19	Vermilion River	Judy (419)271-2252 watergirl785@yahoo.com
May 9/10	Ashtabula River / Conneaut Creek	Jock (740)385-4346 jockklinger@msn.com
June 27/28	Hocking River Overnight	Jock (740)385-4346 jockklinger@msn.com
July 18/19	Tuscarawas River / Outdoor Drama	Harold (330)328-7354 hscobie@aol.com
August 15/16	Rocky Fork / Paint Creek	Ted (513)742-2459 canoeted@fuse.net
September 19/20	Mad River	Ted (513)742-2459 canoeted@fuse.net
October 2 thru 11	Adirondacks in NY	Tony (419)845-2010 tbonecanoes@hotmail.com
October 24/25	Little Miami River	Ted (513)742-2459 canoeted@fuse.net
November 15	Annual Trip Planning Meeting	ODNR Morse Rd. Columbus, Ohio

Who can long watch the ceaseless lapping of a river's current without conceiving a desire to set himself adrift?

- Harlan Hubbard -



OHCRA - Planning Meeting Minutes – 11/09/2008

Members Present:

Ted, Connie, Harold, Laurie, Tony, Alice, Jock, Paul K, Paul W., Wil, Gloria, Lance, Tim

Old Business:

There was no outstanding old business

New Business:

Paul Wood presented the Treasury Report. We had some income this year due to a few new members and sale of inventory. However the club ended the year with a net loss of \$122.38. Without yearly dues we are relying only on interest from CD's to pay the website fees and print the newsletter.

Discussed the newsletter. With the website, all information can be accessed online. We will downsize the newsletter starting next year, to only the monthly outings, for those without internet service.

Harold was added as assistant to the treasure along with Paul K.

Talked about silk screening some sweatshirts or light fleece jackets with our logo. Jock and Tony will check on and report back later.

Harold had leather canoe ornaments made and we will sell them on the website for \$4.00 including shipping. Mentioned asking for non taxable club donations on the website. Tony will add something.

Lot's of discussion was held regarding 2009 trips. There was strong desire to do some overnight on the river trips. The Hocking may fit that desire. Below are the proposed trips/events and dates for 2009.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Stream or Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip Leader</u>
January	Hocking Hills Winter Hike	17/18	Jock & Debbie
Feb/March	Winter in Michigan	28/1	Lance
March	Stillwater	21/22	Wil
April	Vermilion	18/19	Judy
May	Ashtabula	9/10	Jock
June	Hocking Overnight	27/28	Jock
July	Tuscarawas	18/19	Harold
August	Rocky Fork	15/16	Ted
September	Mad River	19/20	Ted
October	Adirondacks	2-11	Tony
October	Little Miami	24/25	Ted
November	Planning Meeting	15	Tony

The Hocking Hills Hike will be a non-canoeing fun weekend. Expect to stay in cabins, etc. Watch website for details.

Winter in Michigan will depend on details worked out by Lance. All are urged to come that can and are interested. Last years winter outing was great, so plan to attend. Watch website for details.

The Adirondack trip is still in the planning stages but is generating a lot of interest. Any input is appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 12:56pm.

WWW.OHCRA.ORG

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. – Loren Eiseley

My Canoe

It takes me thru' the wilderness where
solitude and grace,
Inspire me to better deeds in the world I
daily face,
It skims the waters lightly where ne'er a
man has trod,
And I view the best of Nature - the
handiwork of God,
It shelters me at nightfall and protects
me from the rain,
Rides lightly on my shoulders where
heavier loads have lain,
It stands twixt me and danger through
rivers' boiling trails,
It answers quick and surely to my paddle
and my sail,
While life and breath remain to me -
while eye and limb hold true,
I'll glide o'er new found waterways -
with my paddle and canoe.

Randy Morgan
(Prehootusman)

With the internet taking over our lives and email becoming the standard way of communicating with each other, it would great to get every members email address. I can save a group address list and send any updates directly to the members. Send me an email at "manager@ohcra.org" I would also appreciate any members (besides Paul Woods) that do not have the internet to let me or Paul know so I can keep in touch with you by regular mail.

Also remember our OHCRA list group. To join send an email to:

OHCRA-JOIN@OHCRA.ORG

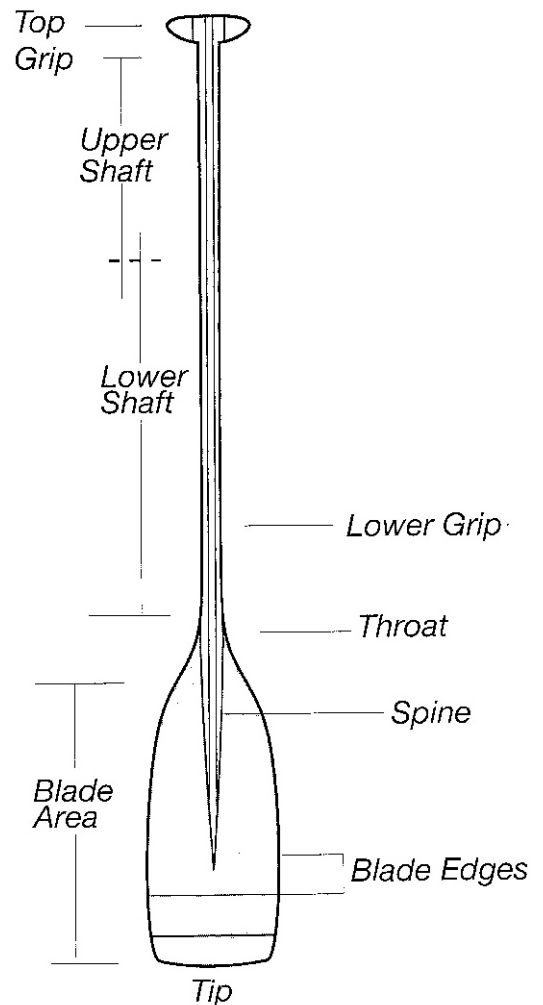
I will have to accept you (it keeps spammers away) which should only take a day.

Thanks

Webmaster Tony

www.ohcra.org

Parts of a Canoe Paddle



“Just a boy and a girl in a little canoe and the moon
was shining all around,

As they dipped their paddles in they didn't even
make a sound.

So they talked and they talked 'til the moon went in,
and he said you better kiss me or get out and swim.

So you know what to do in a little canoe when the
moon is shining all around.

Get out and swim? What the heck, stay and neck.”

Long-Lost Technique for Keeping Fit For Paddling Over the Winter Months...

During the winter storm that hit the lower Great Lakes last year, I inadvertently discovered a long-lost technique for practicing good paddling technique and exercising long-dormant paddling muscles. With the University closed for the day and driveways equally closed under 2 foot drifts I took to the sturdy plastic shovel to live the dictum 'Hanta Yo' (Clear The Way).

And clear the way I did, until a nagging pain began to assail my back. It was then that I made my historic discovery. By switching my lower hand, the one NOT gripping the top of the shovel handle, but gripping the lower part of the shovel from a forward to backward grip I may have freed mankind from an ancient scourge: lower back pain.

If you're used to gripping the lower part of the shovel forehanded with thumb facing the blade, try switching that grip to a backhanded one with the thumb pointing back towards the shovel handle. Now lay into that snow. In one smooth motion you grab a shovel full, heft it up and scatter it to the winds. Actually it's better to scatter it away from the winds or you get it right back in the face. No lower back pain, an easy stroke, but, better than all this, a replication (if you move your upper body along with the shovel) of the classic Canadian canoe stroke. A little twist and flip at the end and you've got a classic J-stroke. A little lean on the snow and you've got a brace. Reach out over the snowbank and you've got a draw. Need I elaborate further?

Taken with such a discovery I proceeded from neighbor to neighbor, clearing driveway after driveway, no longer grumbling about my accursed fate, but dreaming of sallying forth into the Northwood's, the loons calling and the forest drifting past.

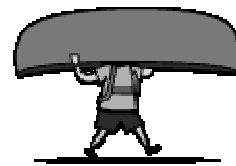
A bit of research brought up the little known fact that this shoveling technique was employed by the voyageurs centuries ago to limber up for the coming spring's challenges.

Deep in the heart of the wilderness in 1641, the journal of Father Pierre LePoivre, of Our Lady of Perpetual Motion in the tiny hamlet of Mishuggena, Quebec, recorded the daily lives

of his parishioners, all Couriers De Bois, chanting the songs of Superior in unison while clearing their driveways with the backhanded stroke.

So, in one fell swoop you can ease your back, practice for the upcoming season and relive history all in one motion, the backhanded snow shovel stroke. Your life will never be the same again.

Marty Cooperman (aka Chicken-of-the-Sea)



It's the portage that makes traveling by canoe unique. What other vehicle can you just pick up and carry on your head?

- Path of the Paddle -

Q:
Somewhere in the deep, dark recesses of my now cob-webby mind, I recall one of your books describing a method of periodic camp stove maintenance. I have several stoves in which I burn white gas. The tip I recall was to burn a small amount (1 tablespoon?) of carburetor cleaner mixed in with the regular fuel every (how often) to help keep the stove cheerfully operating for me on my canoe adventures.

A:
A capful of carburetor or fuel injector cleaner mixed with enough gas to run the stove will do the trick. I do this once a year at the end of the season. Be sure to burn the stove completely dry before you put it away.

International Scale of Difficulty

RATING	RIVER CHARACTERISTICS	EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
Class I	Moving water with few ripples and small waves. Few or no obstructions.	Practiced beginner
Class II	Easy rapids with waves up to three feet high. Wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering required.	Intermediate
Class III	Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.	Experienced
Class IV	Long difficult rapids with constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Generally impassable for open canoes	Highly skilled
Class V	Long and violent rapids that must nearly always be scouted from shore. Rescue conditions are difficult and there is significant hazard to life in event of mishap.	Team of Experts
Class VI	Limit of navigability. Nearly impossible and very dangerous.	Team of experts, only after close study and with all precautions taken.

Canoe: /ke'nu:/ *noun*, light narrow boat propelled by paddles.

Canoes were developed over the course of thousands of years by the native peoples of North America. The word 'canoe' originated from the word 'kenu' - meaning dugout. These seagoing boats were used by the Carib Indians of the Caribbean islands, and were made of large tree trunks which were shaped and hollowed, and were strong enough to travel between the islands.

North American Indians are responsible for creating the more well-known version of the canoe - a frame of wooden ribs covered with the lightweight bark of birch trees, and sometimes elm or cedar trees. These boats, which have remained virtually unchanged in design for thousands of years, proved to be ideal for travelling the numerous streams, rivers and lakes of North America.

Birchbark was the perfect choice to build canoes because, not only was it lightweight and smooth, but it was also waterproof and resilient. As well, the birch tree was found in almost every area of Canada, except for the western subarctic region, where spruce bark had to fill in as a substitute.

The joints of the canoes were held together by the root of the white pine and then made waterproof by applying hot pine or spruce resin.

As the commerce of early North America grew, so did the need for canoes. The fur trade became so large, in fact, that the French set up the world's first known canoe factory at Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, around the year 1750. Many of the canoes that fur traders used were capable of carrying a crew of up to 12 people and a cargo weighing around 5300 pounds.

There are two types of canoes, the K-boat, or kayak, a closed decked vessel, is generally meant for the use of one person and is propelled by a single paddle with a blade at either end.

The second type of canoe is the more traditional C-boat, or Canadian. The C-boat is manufactured from many different materials, ranging from wood to kevlar. This type of canoe is usually around 17 feet long, a different weight depending on the material used to build it, and meant for two people. The canoeists each use a paddle with a single blade.

There is a magic in the feel of a paddle and the movement of a canoe, a magic compounded of distance, adventure, solitude and peace

- Sigurd Olson -

OHCRA
914 June Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

WWW.OHCRA.ORG



OHCRA Membership

Return to OHCRA, c/o P. Wood, 914 June St., Fremont, OH 43420

Name: _____ Date: _____
Name of spouse, children: _____
Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____
County: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

One-time initiation fee (includes entire family)	\$10.00
Organizational Membership	\$20.00
OHCRA T-shirt (Adult sizes)	\$10.00
Tax deductible donation	_____
Total enclosed	_____

My Interests ARE:

<input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-enactment's
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural History	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting, Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> All Day Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Tours
<input type="checkbox"/> Extended Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing Skills