



Around the Bend

Summer 2003

Volume 21 Number 2

2003 OHCRA EVENT SCHEDULE

January 12	Planning Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Square, Bldg. "E", Columbus, OH
March 9	Planning Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Square, Bldg. "E", Columbus, OH
April 19/20	Clear Creek - Jock Klinger
April 27	AOCA Final Planning Meet 11:00 a.m., Fountain Square, Bldg. "E", Columbus, OH
May 17/18	State Wide Trip Begins
May 24-26	State Wide Trip Continues
May 31-June 1	State Wide Trip Continues
June 7-15	State Wide Trip Concludes
July 19/20	Summer Outing - Jock Klinger 1.740.385.4346
August 23/24	Little Miami - Ted Spradlin 1.513.742.2459
September 13/14	Raccoon Creek Dave Caplinger/Jock Klinger 1.937.393.2739
October 11/12	Mad River - Dave Caplinger 1.937.393.2739
November 9	Planning Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Square, Bldg. "E", Columbus

All Ohio Canoe Adventure

Dear Friends,

I am sorry that I missed you through Chillicothe on your trip this year. I would have loved to greet all of you and even make the return trip downriver. I congratulate all of you for making the trip, especially through all the hard rain and floodwaters. I thought about you all the remainder of the week and of the good times and memories that I knew you were gathering for yourselves again. It would have been lovely to share them with you.

I can't go into all the antics that happened to all of us; of the turtle hunting and mud fights, Tecumseh and the tour of Chillicothe; of the wonderful surprise visits and welcomes we received on and off the water, the hot tea waiting at the riverside for us, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Paul Jordan's wife's delicious meal in Lucasville; of the beautiful scenery we saw, particularly on the Sandusky; of the cold evenings, the campfires and the shared meals and just finding out that strangers can indeed become friends for life.

I hope that all your acquaintances were rekindled. It was a joy to be able to get online, read the newsletters, and find out that so many of you have kept together as friends. I apologize for my absence. However, you should know that I never forget the wonderful times that we had 20 years ago and grieve those that have passed since. I miss you all and just wanted to let you know that I am proud of you and how you have kept OHCRA alive through the years.

God Bless You!

Katrina Peterson
Chillicothe, Ohio

AROUND THE BEND
is published quarterly by the
OHIO HISTORICAL CANOE ROUTE
ASSOCIATION,
914 June Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

Send all articles and news items to the Editor:
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Where History Is Only A Paddle Stroke Away
Join the Ohio Historical Canoe Route Association and
journey through history on Ohio's waterways.

Membership Dues

Be sure to check the date on your mailing label to see if you are current on your dues. We have been purging the membership list of anyone 2 years out on his or her dues.

Letters To The Editor

I have found out about your group from the "Country Living" magazine that the Pioneer Electric Co. puts out. I am quite interested in your group. I live outside Sidney, Ohio, near the Loramie Creek. I am a French and Indian War (7 Years War) re-enactor and have a small one-man canoe painted in birch bark style. It says that it is a 2-man canoe, but you cannot really get two grown people in it without rolling the dang thing over.

I have done quite a bit of research into fur trader Pierre Lorimier from which the Loramie Creek was named and into the Pickawillany Indian trading settlement at the mouth of the Loramie Creek and can give some insight into the colonial history of this area. I would be interested in cane trips in this area that don't require much portaging as I am unable to carry a canoe more than a few yards anymore (bad legs). I would like to know more about the Mad River trip and if you plan to do a cross state voyage of the western route through Loramie Creek and the Miami River. I may want to join you part of the way on that one though it can be a difficult route at the headwaters. The French didn't call the Miami River "la Riviere Roche" (the rocky river) for nothing you know!

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant
Ray Wehrman

Thanks for another very well done newsletter. I enjoyed reading your travelogue (Winter 2002). I have just finished a book that takes place at Fort Jefferson. Depending on your reading tastes, you might find it interesting. It's "Flashback" by Nevada Barr. The author is/was a National Park Ranger. I think this is her 11th book, all of which take place in a different National Park. Happy Paddling! Maybe we'll see you on the water this summer.

Linda Shultz

AOCA Trip Reports

Don Myers and Jock Klinger submitted the following trip reports. I did some gentle editing, but for the most part, the writers tell their stories.
- Editor

The Ohio Historical Canoe Route Association, Ohio Bicentennial 2003, across Ohio canoe trip began at Whitman's Grove near the mouth of the Sandusky River, Saturday, May 17. There were 28 paddlers in eight canoes; one 20-foot 4-person canoe, two 27-foot 6-person Voyageur canoes and five 2-person canoes. At noon, Don Miller, owner of Whittacre's Reserve, gave a historical talk. The paddlers were told that James Whittacre was captured and adopted by Indians as a youth. Whittacre established the first trading post in the Northwest Territory on the Sandusky River. The British burned his house in 1814. The flotilla paddled upstream to Fremont where Mayor Terry Overmyer conducted a ceremony greeting the paddlers and read a proclamation. OHCRA gave the mayor a proclamation in return. Roy Wilhelm of the "Fremont News Messenger" gave a historical talk about Fremont. Doug Crigger, another local historian, and Sandusky County Commissioner Terry Thatcher attended. The ceremony was held in Fremont just upstream from the State Street Bridge.

Camping Saturday night was at Broken Paddle Canoe Livery. The shuttle on Sunday took us to Fort Seneca. We put in and some paddled back to the State Park and some to Broken Paddle Canoe Livery.

The second weekend of paddling was Saturday, May 24 and began in the Upper Sandusky City Park with six canoes and eleven paddlers. A canoe poler joined us at Indian Mill having poled upstream from a bridge access downstream. Harold Scobie and his partner joined us at Parker Covered Bridge in Wyandot County. Later, Tom Burger, his daughter Jessica and her two exchange student friends, Jeanette Herzog of Switzerland and Annette Kaeseweter of Germany met us. We portaged the dam at Indian Mill along with four or five separate logjams on our 20 miles of paddling. We camped in a cornfield that night. Sunday we paddled another 20 miles, portaging one more dam but had no logjams. We arrived in Tiffin around 4:00 p.m. then took canoes by trailer to Isaac Walton League to camp. We had seen assorted wildlife along the river on Sunday. There were eagles, ducks, orioles, kingfisher, geese and a blue heron that was so intent on fishing that we could get as close to him as ten feet before he became a little nervous.

Monday, Memorial Day, we put in just north of Tiffin at the Route 38 Bridge. We then paddled in what was some swift water at times before taking out at Fort Seneca. During the three-day weekend, we paddled about 50 miles.

The May 31-June 1 weekend began at Greencamp on the Scioto River due to dredging on the Little Scioto River by the Corps of Engineers. Camping took place at the United Methodist Church in Bellepoint on Saturday night. Sunday, the take out was at Griggs Dam in Columbus.

The youngest paddler was 9-year-old Tim Billow and the oldest was his grandfather Ralph, who is 73 years old and was on the OHCRA trip in 1983. Tim's father Dennis also paddled this year and was with his father, Ralph, on the '83 trip. Other paddlers were from Cincinnati, Akron, Clyde, Fremont, Delta, Norwalk, Medina, Richfield, Logan, Kent, Copley, North Canton, Delphos, Findlay and Mt. Blanchard.

Submitted by Don Myers

The cookies were made by Wanita Billows, Ralph's wife, and yum yum, were they ever good. We paddled to the take out with a stiff wind helping us up the river. We got there early so we shuttled and then got back in the canoes and paddled up to where the ceremony was held. When it was over, we had to paddle back down the river against the stiff wind that had helped us up the river. There was about a foot of chop on the river.

The second week we paddled 20 miles and had to contend with six logjams. We didn't get to our campsite until 7 p.m. Tired, we camped in a cornfield that we had to climb a very steep bank to get to. Paul and Ralph found a level spot down close to the canoes so they didn't have to climb the steep hill. Paul went to bed at 8:30 and actually went to sleep and slept the night through. Anybody who knows Paul knows that Paul does not do that normally. Sunday we paddled 22 miles with no problems and Monday we did a short trip of 5 miles with no problems.

On the following weekend, we did 22 miles as we went from Greencamp to Bellpoint. Saturday was cold, windy and rainy. A family had a sign up along the river that said "Welcome OHCRA" so we stopped to talk to them for a while. Sunday, the weather was cold starting out but then turned nice for paddling. We were averaging about 4 miles per hour. The Sunday trip included 17 miles on both Columbus reservoirs with a portage around one dam and a stop at Hayden Falls. We had started at nine in the morning and finished by 2:30 p.m.

All in all, it has been a good trip so far. Thanks to Ralph's wife for the cookies.

Submitted by Jock Klinger

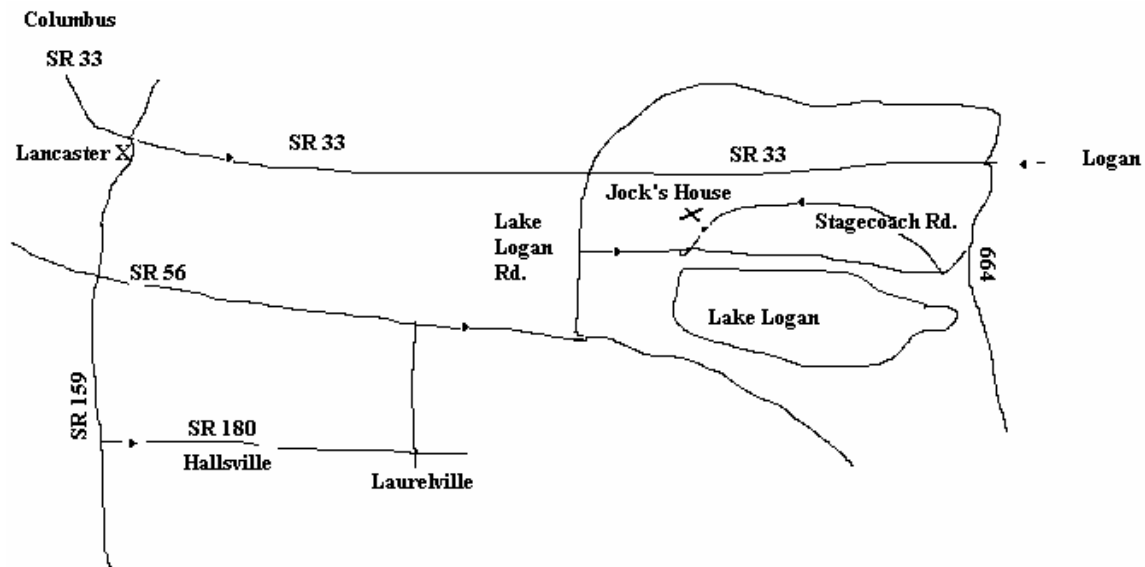
Summer Outing 2003

The OHCRA Summer Outing will take place in the beautiful Hocking Hills this year. Gather with us on July 19 and 20 with our host Jock Klinger for our annual Homecoming. Smoked BBQ ribs, baked beans, potato salad (and probably more) will be the Saturday evening feast.

Sunday morning - pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, coffee and toast

Beverages will be provided

In the event of rain, shelter will be made in the barn. Possible activities may include some trap shooting (for a small charge)



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- Jeff and Linda Arthur - Arthurjeff4@aol.com
- George Bates - georgeofthejunglesdrum@attbi.com
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*List family members and birth dates on separate sheet.

Annual Membership Dues run from January 1 to December 31.