



Around the Bend

Winter 2002

Volume 20 Number 4

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
May 17/18	State Wide Trip Begins
May 24-26	State Wide Trip Continues
May 31-June 1	State Wide Trip Continues
June 7/8	State Wide Trip Continues
June 14/15	State Wide Trip Continues
June 21-28	State Wide Trip Concludes
July 19/20	Summer Outing Jock Klinger
August	Little Miami Ted Spradlin
September 13/14	Raccoon Creek Dave Caplinger/Jock Klinger
October 11/12	Mad River Dave Caplinger
November 9	Planning Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Fountain Square, Bldg. "E", Columbus, OH

From The Editor

Some of you may have also noticed that the newsletter is a little late coming out. Well, Heather and I have been on vacation for 3 weeks. Yep, 3 whole weeks ladies and gentlemen. We traveled to the Florida Keys for a week of sailing, snorkeling, flying in Bi-Plane, general carousing and other activities. And it was good.

We then ventured north to the Everglades, stopping to swim with dolphins along the way. While in the Everglades we sailed some more, canoed through mangrove swamps, rode one of those crazy swamp boats with a very "interesting" boat captain, battled mosquitoes and fire ants and had numerous alligator encounters. And yes, it too was good. We left the Everglades to spend two days at the Kennedy Space Center. It was fascinating to see the changes there since my last visit as a young teenager. In Key West, we took a 70-mile boat trip to the Dry Tortugas to snorkel for the day. However, the main attraction there is a fort built after the War of 1812 called Fort Jefferson. It is practically an island of it's own. Coincidentally, we ended our vacation by circling back to Ft. Jefferson in a way. We drove up the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina visiting two Forts, Pulaski and Sumter, which in addition to their Civil War importance were also part of the coastal fort defenses that included the building of Ft. Jefferson and a whole line of brick fortresses all the way to Maine. **Visiting these historical sites only served to steel my feelings that a state's historical sites need to be saved.**

Therefore, the newsletter is late you see.

AROUND THE BEND
 is published quarterly by the
**OHIO HISTORICAL CANOE ROUTE
 ASSOCIATION**
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SUBMISSION DEADLINES: 3/4 SPRING
 6/4 SUMMER 9/4 FALL 12/4 WINTER
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 contact:**

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Membership Dues

Be sure to check the expiration 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.

2003 Cross Ohio Canoe Trip

At the November planning meeting, May 17 was established as the put in date. We will start on Lake Erie and paddle to Fremont that first weekend. If all goes as planned we should make Columbus by June 21. Once the Columbus group hits the rest of the expedition in a one-to-the-Take out River June 28. Billow will be the contact person for ceremonies and other Bi-Centennial related events. Jim and Jodie Wolf and Brad and Rachel Buck will be scouting and securing camping sites from Green Camp to Columbus and Dave Caplinger will be doing the same from Columbus to Chillicothe. Ted Spradlin will take over from there to Portsmouth. For more information, check out our web site.



will be done week jaunt Ohio River. at the Ohio should be Ralph the person for ceremonies and other Bi-Centennial related events. Jim and Jodie Wolf and Brad and Rachel Buck will be scouting and securing camping sites from Green Camp to Columbus and Dave Caplinger will be doing the same from Columbus to Chillicothe. Ted Spradlin will take over from there to Portsmouth. For more information, check out our web site.

Letter To The Editor

I have been a member of OHCRA for many years and joined Paul, Jock, Ted and some of the group for a trip on the Sandusky River back in the spring of 2001. I had hoped to join more outings, but have gotten myself into a bit of a fight as one of the founders and co-chairmen of a citizens' group called STOP THE MALL and have been fighting the proposed mall at Fallen Timbers for almost two years. It was encouraging to see your editorial on the front page of the Fall Newsletter (Is Ohio History For Sale?). Many people in the area (Southwest Lucas County) have done a lot of hard work and put in many hours to stop this over-the-top commercial development from crowding out our history. I can't tell you how much it means to hear that people around the state agree with us. I think we will win this one yet.

Dave Westrick
 evadwest@buckeye-express.com

Big Walnut Creek September 26, 2002 Trip Report

By Brad Buck

What if there was a canoe trip and nobody came? That is the way the Big Walnut Creek float appeared early on, as several veteran OH CRA members made contact to let me know they would not be able to make it. I was able to face the grim reality that Dave Caplinger would not be bringing dessert and made other arrangements. I also knew that Jock would not be scouting ahead for us as he had made other plans (and didn't think we'd have water, I might add!) Then at the last minute, an unwelcome bad-natured blustery ill-tempered party crasher decided to participate. No, it was not one of my ex-girlfriends. Just a close approximation. Her name was Isadore.

Ex-Hurricane Isadore's approach was predicted and she arrived on time. She started on Thursday and let loose a deluge of water through Friday afternoon here in central Ohio. She was nice enough to clear out as the evening approached, but the damage was done. Her 2-4 inches of rain raised the stream and river water levels quickly and there was no way to know how high the water would go. I checked in with the USGS real-time water gage website (<http://water.usgs.gov/realtime.html>) throughout the day, but the river levels went up and showed no sign of stopping.

I had several phone calls from OH CRA members across the state wanting to know if the trip was still on. I told them I could not forecast the conditions, but recommended not making a big drive. I rechecked the river gages and they

seemed to be topping off, but I was not making any promises.

The Scioto River Canoe Livery recommended we cancel the trip, but I had no way of knowing who was planning on coming or if they were en route. I loaded my old station wagon and went to check out the river level at the Scioto campground, convinced that only mad dogs and Englishmen would be interested in being on the river in these potential flood conditions.

When I arrived at the outfitter, one Englishman by the name of Paul Wood was already there. We formed the "core group". We were the entire turnout. We checked out the river, and Isadore had provided ample bounty of water (at least she brought *something*). Big Walnut had looked reasonable on the way in, too, so we decided to camp and check the conditions in the morning.

By morning the river, the creek and expectations of more turnouts were down substantially. At 9 A.M, Paul and I decided to take advantage of the conditions. We put in about 25 miles upstream on Big Walnut Creek (at Livingston Avenue). The sun came out and the weather was very comfortable.

We completed the run in about six ½ hours. We saw no other boats, but had excellent floating conditions. A few leaves were starting to turn color (barely). We had little maneuvering to do as the creek was like a medium-sized river (about 1500 cubic feet per second per Big Walnut gage at Rees, Ohio). Overall, we had a good time despite the near record low turnout (Paul related that one trip had no turnout). Coincidentally, we had both brought brats for the (con't)

(Trip Report Con't)

Saturday potluck. Fortunately, I also brought dessert, but Helen Caplinger need not worry about the competition. We decided to quit while we were ahead and skipped the Sunday float.

In a totally unrelated note (honestly!), the Scioto River Canoe Livery is for sale. They can be contacted at 614.871.9852.

(Editor's note: It takes a lot a time and some effort to volunteer to lead a trip. Low turnouts are a disappointment no matter what the circumstance. Anyone volunteering to lead needs to be applauded for the effort and encouraged to try again.)



Noble Hammock Canoe Trail - Everglades N.P.



Mangrove Tunnels on Noble Hammock Canoe Trail

Completely Non Canoe Related Material

A small boy is sent to bed by his father. Five minutes later... "Da-ad, I'm thirsty, can you bring me a drink of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out." Five more minutes pass. "Da-aaad, I'm thirsty, can I have a drink of water?" "I told you NO! If you ask again I'll have to spank you!" "Daaaaa-aaaad?" "WHAT?" "When you come in to spank me will you bring a glass of water?"

A kindergarten pupil told his teacher he had found a cat. She asked him if it was dead or alive. Dead she was informed. "How do you know?" she asked her pupil. "Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move." the child answered innocently. "You did WHAT??" the teacher exclaimed in surprise. "You know," explained the boy, "I leaned over and went 'psssst!' and it didn't move."



Trail Marker - Noble Hammock Canoe Trail. These markers start at one and go up as the trail continues to its' conclusion. This particular trail had over 120 markers to locate and follow.



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- Jeff and Linda Arthur - Arthurjeff4@aol.com
- George Bates - georgeofthejunglesdrum@attbi.com
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- Brad and Rachel Buck - bradford.buck@abbott.com
- David and Helen Caplinger - dvdhlnap@aol.com
- Herb and Wanda Clark - herbandwanda@bigfoot.com
- Evan "Butch" Ebersole - FLINTLOCK40CAL@yahoo.com
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*List family members and birth dates on separate sheet.

Annual Membership Dues run from January 1 to December 31.