



Around the Bend

Winter 2003

Volume 21 Number 4

OHCRA Family Loses Long Time Member

Long time OHCRA member George “Swimming George” Bates passed away suddenly this fall. George, father of member Jodie Wolf, was an integral part of the early incarnation of OHCRA. Says George Tompkins, “There’s a lot about George that could be told. He was a good paddler (when he stayed in the canoe), a friend of the best kind and everything you could ask a brother to be.” Almost anyone who has been paddling for a while with the club has a story about Swimming George. “The only trip I don’t remember him swimming was on his Salt Creek trip.” said Jock Klinger. Jock continued, “He had a knack for falling out of canoes. I remember one time over in Eastern Ohio on a winter outing; he fell in or slipped in. I think he might have even gone through the ice.” Although he had been living the past few years in Washington State, Swimming George’s exploits lived on in OHCRA history. Recalls George Tompkins, “I remember one sunny afternoon on the Rocky Fork, we pulled over to the right bank at a sandy spot for lunch.” (Continued on page 3)

2004 OHCRA EVENT 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 Wood/Paul Kerlin
August 21/22	Little Miami River Ted Spradlin
September 18/19	Little Muskingham River George Tompkins
October	Suwannee River, FL Brad Buck

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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.

Go To The Website

We are strongly urging everyone to visit our website. It gets better all the time. Everyone with a computer and an Internet connection should really consider getting the newsletter online. It now costs the club an average of \$100 every quarter to publish the paper version of the newsletter. We could cut that cost considerably if we concentrated on web content. We will continue to offer the newsletter to anyone who wishes to receive it via the mail, but please, consider the alternative. You can get updates there and sometimes goodies that you will not see here.

**Notable Changes To 2004
Schedule**

Due to rising costs and declining attendance, you may notice that there is no Summer Outing scheduled for 2004. For more details on this decision, see club minutes. There is also a very adventurous trip to the legendary Suwannee River in Florida being planned by Brad Buck. There are no firm dates for the trip yet. Check the website for up to the minute changes.

Safety Tip

Everyone thinking about going out on swift water needs to consider the following. The strength of moving water increase exponentially when the current speed is doubled. Example: 10 mph current can carry a 10 lb rock. 20 mph current will carry a 100 lb rock. Be smart, be safe.

(George Bates, con't)

“George came down river and went left to get out on the other side. Just as he was about the step out, he saw a copper head about 18 inches long. I don't think I ever saw anyone move a canoe across water as fast as he did.” Jock added one last anecdote. “We were paddling the Hocking River and George was paddling with his friend Ed. They tried to run the falls at low water. George and Ed both were hefty and they tried going through a small hole between two rocks. As the front of the canoe got past the rocks, the front end took a nosedive and Ed almost went out headfirst. Nothing ever bothered Swimming George on the water. He'd laugh and joke and climb back in his canoe and go on.”

The OHCRA family extends their sympathies to Jodie and the Bates family.

Where Have All the Rivers Gone?

- On average, society has built two large dams a day for the last 50 years.
- An estimated 800,000 dams of all sizes now block the flow of the world's rivers.
- Researchers estimate that during recent decades at least 20% of the world's 10,000 fresh water fish species have become endangered, threatened with extinction, or have already gone extinct.
- In the United States and beyond, there is growing interest in restoring more natural river flows and ecosystem health by changing the way that dams and other water structures are operated. Flow restoration efforts are now under way on more than 230 rivers in at least 20 countries.

We are strongly urging everyone who has internet access to consider getting the newsletter on line. Each month, after the newsletter is published and mailed, a copy is posted on the website. You can save the club money by accessing the newsletter online. Please email me at ohcraeditor@att.net if you wish to no longer receive the newsletter by mail.

OHCRA Planning Meeting – 11/09/2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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 “www.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. In addition, Dave Petrik formally resigned as Assistant Treasurer. 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.

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. In addition, 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.

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.

Paul and 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.

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.

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. In addition, if we do not 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 do not, do not have to. All can be and normally are accommodated. We will emphasize to the trip leaders that these issues should be 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 are not OHCRA, we are 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. Moreover, we hope we do not or have not lost anyone.

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 are not. 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

From "Canoeist's Little Book of Wisdom"

- Paddle in time with the sun, not your watch.
- Thunder in the morning, all day storming. Thunder at night, canoeist's delight.
- Learn to ferry your canoe out of harm's way. If ducks can do it, you can too!
- Think hard before you lend your favorite canoe or paddle to a friend.
- Paddle at sunrise and sunset with someone you love.
- Trust your bow paddler!



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OH CRA E-MAIL LIST

The following is a list of e-mail addresses that club members have made available to us. If your address is wrong, please let me know and I will correct it. If you do not see your address and would like to list it, please let me know. If you would like your address to be removed from the list, please let me know.

- Jeff and Linda Arthur - Arthurjeff4@aol.com
- George Bates - georgeofthejunglesdrum@attbi.com
- Dennis and Debra Billow - dbillow@winesburg.com
- 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
- Rick and Ann Hammond - ahammond@ameritech.net
- Jeff and Carolyn Hartley - zider@zoomnet.net
- Donald Huhman - dkhuhman@adelphia.net
- David Hammerstein and Justine Feinstein - jfeinstein@greenapple.com
- Paul Kerlin - pklerlin@woh.rr.com
- Jock Klinger - JOCKKLINGER@msn.com
- John Lane - lane.30@osu.edu
- Troy and Cynthia Leibengood - tcbleibengood@cros.net
- Harold Marsh - hmarsh666@aol.com
- Ron Mills - tmm@adelphia.net
- Larry and Sophia Morton - solamo@zoominternet.net
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- Harold and Joan Theiss - hjtheiss@juno.com
- George and Marilyn Tompkins - tompkins@nacs.net
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William C. Moll - Wmoll@ned.it.com

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Canoe Trailer - Accommodates 3 boats, lower compartment for gear, spare tire included. \$ 225.00 or offer. - 1.419.334.4275 after 6 pm Jason Holbrook

Ron Mills is selling one of his canoes. Contact Ron via email, tmm@adelphia.net for more info.



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USCA

Membership Chair Paula Thiel

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Preston, CT 06365

1.860.889.9893

*List family members and birth dates on separate sheet. Annual Membership Dues run from January 1 to December 31.