



## Kansas River Access News

By Kristin Coleman - KSU  
Student in Journalism

As most Kansans know, there is a severe lack of public access points to the rivers in Kansas. Members of the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association (KCKA), tourists, and other people in the community would like to spend more time on the rivers in Kansas but are unable to do so because of a shortage of public river access. However, this problem is in the process of being fixed.

A public access point opened last year on the Kaw River near St. George, KS. The ramp was developed by the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association and Friends of the Kaw. It was built with the help of the Westar Energy Green Team and dozens of local volunteers. The St. George access has a large concrete ramp, restroom, shelter, trees, barbeque pit, picnic tables, and security lights. A gravel parking lot is adjacent to the access point to allow easy entrance into the river. It is the hope of KCKA members that this access is going to be the model for all other access points in Kansas.

You may know that a public access point is being planned for Manhattan off U.S. Highway 177 on the Kaw River. The reason for this is that under medium and high water flows down the nearby Blue River, the Blue River ramp access, just two miles downstream from Highway 177, is very difficult for individuals to paddle upstream to the Blue River ramp access from the Kansas River.

Ron Little, Public Lands Director for the Department of Wildlife and Parks, said "We are working with Riley County officials to build this ramp; however, it is still in the

drawing stage. We hope to have the access open within a year."

The access will have a parking lot and a boat ramp with other details still in planning stages.

You may also have heard a rumor that Fort Riley is planning to build a new river access to the Kansas River off of U.S. Highway 18 at the K-18 bridge over the Kansas River. However, according to Little, this statement is false.

Kansas Department of Transportation officials are planning on rebuilding the Odgen Bridge in the future to make it four-lanes. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is going to wait until the construction gets

underway before they even start to think about building an access point. So as of now, Fort Riley is not

planning a river access off U.S. Highway 18.

Little said, "I would be more than willing to work with KCKA and other local canoe associations because they know what's going on."

Mr. Little invites KCKA members to call him with their questions about the access points. Ron Little can be reached at (785) 273-6740.



[Above Top: L-R Sandy & Keith Ratzloff, Jon Held & Family at the new St. George River Park; Above Bottom: Ned McPartland, Jr at the old St. George Access - photos by T.J. Hittle]

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# KCKA Spring Rendezvous - Record Turnout!

By Jackie Rawlings

The weekend of May 21-23 turned out to be a great weekend to hold the KCA Spring Rendezvous. At least that was the consensus of the 45 plus people who participated. It was held at Council Grove Lake at the group campsite in Ritchey Cove.

The campsite turned out to be great. There was plenty of space for tents and RV's. It has a large pavilion with six large tables and a large grill. The bathrooms were close by and there was easy access to the lake. Near the entrance of the cove were six new beautiful, single shower-bathroom combinations that we all agreed were the nicest camp showers we had ever seen.

On Saturday, 26 boats, 23 kayaks and 3 canoes put in on Munkers Creek, which is just a short distance from camp. It is an extremely protected and beautiful creek. It winds its way east into the flint hills. There are rock bluffs most of the way. We paddled as far as we could upstream, stopped, and had lunch where the kids were able to play in the water. Then we just paddled back to the put in which was a public Kansas Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Area and River Access. No need for shuttling.

Prior to the float, Mick O'Shea, KCA Safety-Education Chair and TJ Hittle, our former Safety-Education Chair, conducted a short safety workshop on using a Rescue Bag, aka throw bag. The course covered how to hold, throw and receive the Rescue Gab, and what to do and what NOT to do. The workshop was well received. Everyone had an opportunity to practice on a moving "victim" in Munkers Creek. We hope all of our members add a Rescue Bag to their equipment list and know how to use it when they need it.



[Above: Group photo at Munker's Creek - photo by T.J. Hittle]



[Above Right: Pickin' & Grinnin' with Roger Norton, Jack Spiller & TJ Hittle; Left: - photos by Tom Jenkins]

Saturday night was

really fun. The food was great. The fare featured hamburgers, hot dogs and a really

nice assortment of side dishes & desserts provided by the participants. Before dinner, Chris Collins led a lively round table discussion on the pros and cons of becoming an ACA Paddle America Club. All questions were answered and most agreed that like other paddling clubs in the nation, we could use an option to gain some protection against adverse litigious decisions.

After dinner we had some engaging entertainment with Roger Norton and TJ singing and playing guitars and Jack Spiller on dobro. Roger knows an amazing number of cowboy songs. TJ added his share of rock and roll tunes plus some lively harmonica. Jack Spiller held his own on the dobro. They sang and played for about an hour. What a

treat it was to see Jack Spiller. He has been a member for at least 20

years but has not been active for the past several. Jack, thanks for coming to the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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# Activities Calendar

"KCKA Members - we need your trips & events"



**The KANSAS PADDLER Home Page contains the FULL trip and activities schedule. Some events dates & times may have changed or may not be listed in the KCKA Newsletter, so check it out at: [www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/](http://www.kansas.net/~tjhittle/)**

**JUNE**  
**June 14, Flint Hills Float, Class 1**, an early Sunday morning day float near Manhattan, KS. Meet at 9:00 am. For more details, contact T.J. Hittle, [tjhittle@kansas.net](mailto:tjhittle@kansas.net) or (785) 539-7772.  
**June 20-25, Colorado Whitewater** - This will be a Class III-IV trip, based generally around the Arkansas River near Salida, CO. We will camp near Nathrop, CO. For more details, contact T.J. Hittle, [tjhittle@kansas.net](mailto:tjhittle@kansas.net) or (785) 539-7772.

**JULY**  
**July 3 - 7, Salmon River, Upper, Idaho**, 68 miles, class II-III. - This trip will start near Salmon and end at Corn Creek and should be a good place for a person to learn the skills of making a multi-day whitewater trip. I have only run a few miles of this trip. For more details or to get on the list contact Cliff Long, [clifflong@kansasriverrat.com](mailto:clifflong@kansasriverrat.com) or (316) 253-9216 after 4 weekdays or on weekends.  
**July 13 - 23, Salmon River, Lower, Idaho**, 132 miles, class III-IV. - This trip will start at Vinegar Creek and end at Heller Bar on the Snake River. Shorter sections of this can be run by making arrangements. This is a nice trip with about half of it being remote. For more details or to get on the list contact Cliff Long, [clifflong@kansasriverrat.com](mailto:clifflong@kansasriverrat.com) or (316) 253-9216 after 4 weekdays or on weekends.

**July 17-18, 2004, July Whitewater Trip**. Looking for mostly Class II with III that can be portaged. Prior approval and whitewater equipment are required. Be prepared for a 7-14 hour drive to either Arkansas or Colorado.. RSVP Chris Collins 316-942-4339.  
**July 23, 24, 25 -Kansas River**, Junction City -St. George, KS. Class I. Suitable for touring kayaks, recreational kayaks and canoes. Expect a Friday evening launch with two nights on the river. Optional early take out in Manhattan late Saturday afternoon. For more details, contact R. J. Stephenson [rjsraft@sunflower.com](mailto:rjsraft@sunflower.com) or 913-845-2359.

**July 26 -August 5, Missouri River, Fort Benton to James Kipp Recreation Area, Montana**, 149 miles, class I. - This is the Missouri Breaks or Wild and Scenic Missouri River. Come follow the route Lewis and Clark used 200 years ago to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Purchase. We may even camp in some of the same spots. If possible you should supplement this trip with a visit to the Lewis and Clark Museum in Great Falls. Fort Benton was the inland end of steamboat transportation up the Missouri River. If there is enough interest we can start the trip about 20 miles upstream at Carter Ferry. For more details or to get on the list contact Cliff Long, [clifflong@kansasriverrat.com](mailto:clifflong@kansasriverrat.com) or (316) 253-9216 after 4 weekdays or on weekends.

**AUGUST**  
**August 1-7, 2004, Great River Rumble '04**. Class I. 185 miles on the Missouri River Brunswick MO to Washington MO. We will be following the Lewis and Clark trail. Normally we have around 125 people from 25-30 states. It's a great time on a Midwest river. Contact Erlene Slingsby 785-632-2389 or e-mail address in the Kansas Paddler newsletter for a brochure with more information.

**SEPTEMBER**  
**OCTOBER**  
**October 9-10, North Fork of the White River, Missouri**, class I-II. - We'll base camp at Hammond Camp and hope for good fall color. For more details or to get on the list contact Cliff Long, [clifflong@kansasriverrat.com](mailto:clifflong@kansasriverrat.com) or (316) 253-9216 after 4 weekdays or on weekends.

**October 23-24, 2004, KCA Fall Rendezvous**. Old Goat Ranch, Mulvane, KS. Watch for a group email, an ad in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page, and a preview in the Fall Kansas Paddler Newsletter.

(Pecos River.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

**Rendezvous.**

After the concert, TJ showed some fantastic slides of his latest trip in the Salt River Wilderness, which is in the Apache Mountains in eastern Arizona. Roger Norton and Jim Johnson, the permit holder, had also been on the trip and were excited to see and help narrate the slides. The Salt River canyon is beautiful.

Sunday morning, some of the braver souls, namely Larry Storer and Roger Norton, put in on the lake, which was extremely choppy. By the time they got back, the white caps were making the lake pretty exciting. After packing up camp, several of us had a leisurely float on the upper Neosho River. This is an amazingly sheltered river that makes you feel like you are somewhere in the deep south with trees over hanging all

along the way. There were several wildlife sightings on the upper stretch. Except for the wonderful Kansas wind, we couldn't



have had a better weekend.



[More Spring Rendezvous Photos: Left: Rescue Bag Safety Clinic at Munkers Creek; Above: new KCA members Bonnie & Jim Sherow; Below Right: Cliff Long & Eddy Beard; Below Left: Kay & Bob Sinnelt - photos by Jackie Rawlings]



# Pecos River - Trip Report 2004

By Cliff Long



Bill Cather, Wally Siebel, James Christians, Bob Coltharp, and I using touring, recreational, inflatable, and sit-on-top kayaks. After spending the night hoping we didn't get dumped on by an impending rainstorm we gradually broke camp and got underway. The first couple of hundred yards were over the shallow limestone that makes

March 21st we gathered at Emilios Restaurant west of Comstock, Texas to head for the access to the Pecos River near Pandale. Pandale barely exists on the maps and is

only some houses and a community center in actuality. At the put in we unloaded our gear and the non-drivers started making camp while the drivers returned to our parking area near Comstock. At Emilios we picked up drivers to bring Terry Burgess and my vehicles back from Pandale after drivers were returned there.

Terry Burgess and I shared duties as trip coordinators. The group consisted of Terry and Eric Burgess, Terry and Jill Frisbie, and Les and Adam Imboden in tandem canoes. Our kayaking contingent consisted of Kathleen Burgess, Martina Ellis, Ray Cowin,

up the old ford. I expected a river much like the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande and was delighted to find there were more and better rapids per mile.

The write-ups I read for this trip failed to mention many of the rapids along the way and most rapids mentioned were listed as

class II. At the flow we had (about 200 cfs) I would rate most of the rapids as class II+ to III-. The waves weren't very big but there were plenty of rocks to dodge. Where there weren't rock-lined paths to take there were tunnels through the cane. Some of the cane tunnels were barely wider than our boats and most didn't reveal their exit when we entered. Another river hazard was the miles of shallow water with convoluted rock bottom. This section is called the Flutes. You picked a flute to go downstream in and hoped that it led to deeper water, not a dead end. If your flute led to a dead end or shallower water you got out and dragged your boat a few feet to several

hundred yards. To help you misjudge your route there was an upstream wind.

Camps were, mostly, on solid rock near river level. There is nearly no sand along the Pecos as the limestone, instead of breaking into pieces, dissolves helping to keep the river bottom abrasive, not slick. At Lewis Canyon we camped on a nice ledge below an Indian art site. Terry took us up on top to show us the rock art there. It is truly amazing to see more than an acre of limestone facing the sky literally covered with

various designs chipped into it. Thursday morning the group divided with the Burgesses and Frisbies slowing down to get out Saturday. The rest of us forged ahead to get out Friday.

The biggest rapid of the trip was Painted Canyon Rapid, a Class III-IV. It is about 125 yards long with three drops and lots of boulders. The book says there is no portage and to line left. We did it all wrong Les and Adam lined on the right and the rest of us portaged on the right. It made a great place for a lunch break after the portage.

Features below Painted Canyon include a Weir Dam to portage (read "drag" across), Big Rock Rapid (house size), and a boulder garden of garage (and larger) size rocks forming a maze in the river. The last eight or ten miles were on Lake Amistad with an upstream wind. By the time we got off the river we figured we had paddled 59 mile up wind, on a 61-mile trip. It would be easiest to name those who didn't get out of their boats in an improper manner and place but I won't give any names so I don't embarrass myself. Terry's account after the split:

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



[Top Right: - Bill Cather running the Pecos River; Above: Group campsite; Right: Group looking at the Lewis Canyon Petroglyphs - photos by Les Imboden]



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# President's Column

By Jackie Rawlings

I truly am proud to say I am the first woman president of the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association. I'm proud to lead such a diverse and fun loving group that represent all that is good about the paddling community. Many of our members are helping others to learn to enjoy water sports in the safest way. Mick O'Shea, Jim Johnson, TJ Hittle, Chris Collins, Roger Norton have all been involved in recent classes. Being out on a river is such a great way to enjoy the outdoors but without proper knowledge of safety, it can become a disaster. Thank you to those of you who help us meet one of our most critical missions.

I hope you will read the article on the Spring Rendezvous. It was great. I want to thank Eddy Beard, TJ Hittle, Mick O'Shea and Chris Collins for helping make it a success. I think it was Eddy who suggested that I do it. Eddy organized the Swap Meet. I don't know that anyone made much money but there seemed to be a lot of trading going on. I was sorry I missed my chance at Cliff's shortest paddle. I'm sure Bonnie Sherow will put it to good use.

We had a very good discussion about whether or not to become an associate member of the American Canoe Association and become a member of the Paddle American Club. This would make us eligible

for liability insurance for our Board members. Richard Seaton, member and attorney, voiced his opinion on why we should. We all hope that nothing bad ever happens to someone



[Above: Jackie Rawlings on the Mulberry River, AR - photo by T.J. Hittle]

on a KCKA sponsored trip or event. It could happen. I know there are members who would be glad to serve on the Board if they had some assurance that their liability is minimized. The Board will continue to discuss and analyze the pros and cons. There

were some very positive arguments made in

favor of joining. It would mean an additional fee to participate in a KCKA sponsored event. If you have an opinion, send them to either Chris Collins or me.

I want to welcome the Kansas Whitewater Association Chapter to the KCKA. They add a new element to our club. There was a great article in the last issue about this group. I also want to welcome several new Associate members, the Pathfinder from Manhattan, the Kansas City Paddler from Peculiar, MO, GTS.com from Wichita, and Sunflower Outdoors from Lawrence, KS. Our Associate members help support our newsletter, which is the biggest expense of our organization. Be sure and support them whenever possible.

Have a great and SAFE summer!

# Prairie River Art Show

"Prairie River - Paintings and Prints by Lisa Grossman"

June 1 - July 16, Lisa Grossman will be showing work based on the Kansas River at the Lawrence Arts Center. For the show, "Prairie River - Paintings and Prints," she took several flights during the last year along the length of the Kaw and documented it with camera and video. She used this footage to make a series of oils, watercolors and prints.



"As an artist, of course, I'm interested in the visual - the stunning beauty I've discovered flying over the Kaw (Kansas River), and I want to share that with folks. As an outdoors person and environmentalist, I want to raise awareness and appreciation for our magnificent river," says Grossman

The show will be at the Lawrence Arts Center, 10th and New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS and will hang June 1 - July 16. The opening reception is June 4th, 7-9 pm. A gallery talk, "Contemporary Prairie Paintings" will be presented by Elizabeth Schultz followed by a panel discussion of Ms Grossman's show. This event will be Tuesday evening, June 8 at 7:30 pm at the Lawrence Arts Center.



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# Should KCKA Become an ACA Paddle America Club?

By Chris Collins



Currently KCKA has no liability insurance of any kind to protect or defend itself, its officers, its board or its club members.

Lawsuits are much more common today than they were 25 years ago when KCKA was created. We now have an industry of plaintiff attorneys who are constantly on the lookout for accident victims as potential clients. They typically file suits and then ask questions later. For them, it is a numbers game. The cost of filing is low compared to the potential return on their investment. The more suits they file and the more people they name in each suit, the better chance they have of making a hit.

If you are named in a suit, you will be required to answer the suit and you will likely be deposed. Your defense can easily cost you a few thousand dollars. One of the reasons to have liability insurance is to cover the cost of your defense. In addition to the cost of defense, a plaintiff win in the absence of liability insurance could be devastating.

By the way, it won't make any difference to a plaintiff attorney whether you call yourself a "trip leader" or "trip coordinator".

Neither will it reduce your risk of being sued if you schedule a private trip with your friends, and call it a "shared expense" trip. The attorney for your friend's surviving spouse won't care how you worded it. Liability waivers are necessary but they won't stop a suit from being filed, and waivers have limitations. For instance, a person can't



[Above Discussion group on the ACA Paddle America Club issue, led by Chris Collins - photo by Jackie Rawlings]

waive ALL their rights. If you are found negligent, a waiver will mean nothing.

I contacted several canoe clubs to see what they do for insurance. Some, like us, have no insurance. One club is paying several hundred dollars per year. I found

several that have insurance through the American Canoe Association (ACA). ACA has contracted with an insurance carrier to provide canoe clubs with affordable liability insurance program designed especially to be friendly for paddle clubs. Their most popular plan is linked to what they call "Paddle America Clubs". To participate, KCKA will

need to become an ACA "Paddle America Club".

Here are a few clubs and organizations in nearby states that have decided to become a Paddle America Club.

Arkansas:  
ARKANSAS CANOE CLUB. Colorado:  
ASPEN KAYAK SCHOOL,  
DURANGO WHITE-WATER, FIBARK YOUTH PADDLING TEAM, GIRL SCOUTS-MILE

HIGH COUNCIL, HORIZON PROGRAM KAYAK CLUB, PIKES PEAK WHITEWATER

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## Welcome New Members

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- Rachel, Barbara & Jim Hoppins- Wichita, KS
- Linda Rae- OneWithGaia.com- Frankfort, KS
- John & Wilma Payne- Berryton, KS
- The Pathfinder- Manhattan, KS
- Steve Deyoe- Wichita, KS
- Kirk Haney & Shirley Hess- Wichita, KS
- Walter Savage- Holyrood, KS
- Clif Finley- Wichita, KS
- Tom & Carol Hadorn- Wellington, KS
- Tom & Debra Jenkins- Bel Aire, KS
- Paul Becker- GTS, Inc- Wichita, KS
- Lloyd Funk- Fall River Canoe Trips- Eureka, KS
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# Actions n' Captions



[Above George the Dog has really taken to Kayaking. George has his roll down and is progressing towards Class III runs in the greater Wichita area. Watch out, you crazy whitewater cats! - photo by Roger Norton]



[Above: - A typical group campsite on the Pecos River, TX - photo by Ray Cowin]



[Above: Jim Johnson - "hands surfing" on the Arkansas River in Wichita, KS below the tubes on 21st Street - photo by Kirk Haney]



[Above & Right: Mason & Terry Corbin were in Eleuthera Bahamas in April and did some exciting kayaking in the Exuma Sound. As you can see from the photos the rock & cliff formations were incredible! - photos by Terry & Mason Corbin]



[Above: - Richard Seaton, Jr executes a successful "Arkansas ender" in his touring kayak off the banks of the Little Blue River - photo by Keith Ratzloff]



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# Green River, UT Revisited...Labyrinth & Stillwater Canyons - 2004 Trip Report

By Ray Cowin

Last year Cliff Long led a river-canyon hiking trip on the Green River. That trip was enjoyed so much by the participants, that

we decided to do it again this year. We chose to go a little earlier this year, (good choice), to avoid mosquitoes and have cooler weather. Unfortunately, Cliff couldn't make the earlier date (May 5 thru 16), but the rest of us could.

On May 5 we met at Texs Riverways at 8:00 AM. The group consisted of Greg & Fran Lazear (Open Canoe), Bill Cutler (Double Kayak), Mikall Ryan (Sea Kayak), and Ray Cowin (River Touring Kayak).

Day 1: We launched at 11:00 AM. The first three hours slid by rather easily. Then the wind started to pick up and we fought stiff headwinds the rest of the day. Even against the wind, we made good time and traveled 25.5 miles to arrive at our first camp location, Trin-Alcove Bend.

Day 2: This was a hiking day since there were three short canyons to be explored at this location. The middle and right canyons proved to be the most

interesting. The day was spent enjoying the canyons. Some of us topped off the day with a dip in a pool near our camp.

Day 3: We broke camp early and started down river. Our goal that day was Hey Joe Canyon, about 14 miles away. Greg and Fran decided to explore an interesting side canyon along the way. The rest of us went on to Hey Joe and made camp. There was enough time left to visit the old inactive Uranium mines and walk up

the canyon.

Day 4: Two Mile Canyon was our destination that day (about 14 miles). Along the way we passed Bowknot Bend, where I chose to climb up to the saddle. The saddle is a narrow piece of land between two sections of the river. It was a nice view, probably not worth the climb to see it though. After arriving at Two Mile Canyon we made camp and later checked out the canyon. Greg and Fran came back after dark by flashlight.

Day 5: It was a short trip that day, only six miles. We camped on a ledge at the

mouth of Hell Roaring Canyon and visited the D. Julien 1836 Mai rock carving. We also hiked part way up the canyon. Greg and Fran checked out Horseshoe Canyon and rejoined us later.

Day 6: Mineral Bottom was our first destination. Arrangements were made with Tex's Riverways to re-supply us with food and water and pick up trash at this location. After the exchange we paddled on down to Horsethief Canyon. Camp was made and then we hiked the canyon, but not to the end, due to time constraints.

Day 7: We passed the Wild Bunch Cabin and Lookout Tower. The group decided not to stop, since we had visited those things before. We stopped at the Anderson Bottom Spring to top off our water supply. As we left Anderson Bottom, the wind started to increase. We decided to camp at Holeman Canyon. The hike up the canyon was short and not too impressive.

Day 8: Weather was much cooler now. We camped on a ledge near Mile 17. The rest of the group explored a short canyon and climbed out of it and dropped down into Horse Canyon to explore. I stayed in camp due to blisters.

Day 9: Jasper Canyon was our destination today, only about seven miles. We arrived early and therefore got our choice of campsites. We hiked to the waterfall, which consists of water droplets that meander with the breeze. We then tried to climb out of the canyon, but decided it was too dangerous, and returned to camp. Indian ruins are also at this location.

Day 10: It was another short paddle day, only 5 miles. Water Canyon at Mile 4.5 was our destination. This canyon, as its name implies, usually has pools of water in it. Some of the group hiked up and out of the canyon.

Day 11: This was the final paddling day, and we camped at the upper campsite at Spanish Bottom. We arrived early, registered our campsite, and made camp. In spite of mid-afternoon heat, I decided to visit the Doll House. It is a hot, steep climb, but I thought it was worth the effort. The rock formations are great and there is a good condition granary to be viewed.

Day 12: Our outfitter, Tex's Riverways, arrived right on time to pick us up. After everything was loaded, we sat back and enjoyed the ride up the Colorado River to Moab.

I think this is one the best multi-day, flat water trips for those who enjoy hiking as well as paddling.



[L-R: Bill Cutler, Fran Lazear, and Greg Lazear. Photo taken in right canyon of three canyons area - photos by Ray Cowin]



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# Salt River Wilderness, AZ - Kayak Self Support Expedition - 2004 Trip Report

By T.J. Hittle

Some rivers & canyons are simply breathtaking. The Salt River Wilderness, located east of Globe, AZ on the Apache Indian Reservation is one of those.

With all of the uncertainty, rumors, and speculation about water levels, the trip went perfectly and was a fabulous adventure for all seven of us, with one raft and six kayaks along. Members included Jim Johnson, Roger Norton, Dave Murphy, Dave Reid, Bob Coltharp, Joe Galeazzi, and myself. Of course, we had the benefit of considerable experience and the expertise of Bob Coltharp, 20+ time raft veteran of the Salt River. In case you ever want some reliable information on the Salt River, Bob is the man to contact.

We did several things differently than some Salt River trip groups due to

that the first 8 miles are generally the worst for rafts at lower levels, we ran Bob down to the end of the so called "day-run" on the first day to launch. We camped there the first night.

The kayaks launched at the Apache



about the clean and deep side-chute run past Gleason Flats on the right and never stuck his raft on skimpy shoals once during the entire trip. His knowledge of the camps was top shelf too. We had the benefit of early starts and early camps, with our choice of any camp-site.

The kayakers all did well too, with only two minor spankings and a couple portages



[Top Right: Cacti in bloom on the Salt River; Top Left: Roger Norton runs Black Rock, Class IV+; Left: Dave Murphy runs Eye-of-the-Needle, Class III; Right: Dave Reid runs 3-Way, Class III - photos by T.J. Hittle]

Indian access at Hwy 60. Bob's expertise on the rapids of the Salt was incomparable. He ran every rapid almost perfectly, barely touching the sides of boulders as he ran through. His runs down the big drops of Black Rock & Quartzite were amazing. Of course, he ran the

right side of Quartzite, knowing that the left side is notorious for raft damage. He knew

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

the lower water levels. We launched Monday, April 19th, at about 820 cfs. By Friday, the water at the put-in was 650 cfs. Knowing that we were going to have lower water levels, the kayakers were all self-support in big Grand Canyon style boats. Each kayaker had his own clothes, personal gear, bag, pad, shelter, breakfast food, lunch food, cup, plate, spoon, and we shared the group items such as stoves, first aid kits, freeze dried food, spare paddles, water filters, etc, etc. We also had a provision for a small porta-potti in our only inflatable kayak, but did not need that option since Bob was able to carry that item.

Bob, our only rafter, took his 14' Hyside self-bailer to carry the porta-potti, a very small fire pan, his Katadyn Expedition water pump, a small cooler with some food and beer, one night's group food, basic raft part and gear, along with his personal gear. He was loaded about as lightly as I have ever seen any raft.....anywhere. Also knowing



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# White River- a Tip Testimonial

By Clifton Finley

North Fork  
of the  
White  
River, MO -  
April 17-18,  
2004

My  
Back-  
ground I  
began  
kayaking in  
the Pacific  
Ocean ten  
years ago.  
I had a sit-  
on-top Ocean  
Kayak—a Scupper



[Above: Clif Finley on a typical North Fork  
spring float - photo by Chris Collins]

Pro. After six years  
of playing in the  
bays and surf, and  
running Class II rivers, I had maxed-out my  
boat and skills. I wanted more, so I bought a  
Necky Jive and took three, two-day classes  
from California Canoe and Kayak. I  
subsequently ran several Class III and IV  
California rivers, most of which were within a  
three-hour drive of my home. After moving to  
Wichita, I saw only one instance of kayaking  
in two years. My skills were very rusty. I had  
lost my Eskimo roll (I didn't think that was  
possible) and felt uneasy even in Class II  
water. One month after meeting Jim  
Johnson, Roger Norton, and Chris Collins,  
and after boating with them briefly a couple  
of times in Wichita, I made a weekend trip to  
the North Fork of the White River.

**The Trip** The trip is approximately  
800 miles round-trip from Wichita. I had to  
chuckle at myself for driving seven hours to  
run a Class I river, but I enjoyed getting  
better acquainted with Chris Collins enroute.  
We rendezvoused on Saturday morning with  
ten others who also made the trek from  
various points.

**The Setting** The river is fed by several  
natural springs. (When you go, make it a  
point to see Althea Springs at Patrick Bridge.  
It is probably the prettiest spot on the river).  
Water quality: clear and refreshingly cool.  
The shore is lined by groves of trees, though  
houses are occasionally visible. We saw  
many turtles; fish; deer; a water moccasin;  
and several birds, including an eagle  
swooping down over the river. The days  
were warm and sunny, with a little breeze;  
the nights were comfortable and cool with  
few insect pests.

**The River** On Saturday we ran 14  
miles of the river, from Hammond Camp to  
Patrick Bridge. There is a nice drop about  
halfway down (approximately a two-foot

drop). It is a fun place to surf. On Sunday  
morning we ran the  
five miles from Patrick  
Bridge to Dawt Mill.  
(Beware of the much-  
steeper drop at Dawt  
Mill).

The water level  
was perfect to practice  
skills. (The gauge at  
Tecumseh read 2.75  
feet/900cfs). We did  
eddy turns, peel-outs,  
Eskimo rolls, and  
surfing to our hearts'  
content. Learning to

surf in Class III California whitewater had  
been intimidating for me, and didn't afford  
me the best opportunity to perfect my  
technique. On the other hand, surfing in the  
smaller waves of the White River allowed me  
to focus on technique without having to battle  
more substantial hydraulics. It was a  
difference I thoroughly enjoyed, and I am  
now confident enough in my skills to look  
forward to the Ozark whitewater trip coming  
up May 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

It was a wonderful trip for many  
reasons. I am thankful that God made rivers,  
and that He made friends with whom to enjoy  
them. Hope to see you on the river!

(Salt River.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

at two of the bigger drops and with  
plenty of play and surfing along the way for  
the big boats that we had. The support and  
experience of the entire group was very high  
and we kept the minor issues minor with  
good rescue and backup at each major drop.  
We used my standard buddy system along  
the way, thus adding another higher level of  
support. We all ran Quartzite perfectly and  
things went very well in the Salt River  
Wilderness section.

As you probably guessed, the group  
experienced fabulous weather along the way.  
If you know the Salt Wilderness, you know  
the scenery & wildlife were incredible. A great  
many of the cacti were in bloom along the  
way in late April. As a horticulturist and  
Landscape Architect, I really looked forward  
to seeing the slides. They were beautiful and

were recently shown at the KCA Spring  
Rendezvous. Each day, we spent just a few  
hours on the river, averaging 10 miles/day  
over 5 days, leaving plenty of time for side  
hikes along the way and relaxing at each  
camp.

Because we were self-support and using  
good quality freeze dried food, we eliminated  
the need for normal extra support, the typical  
kitchen, large coolers, ice, etc, etc. The food  
was terrific and we all had a great time  
experiencing various food processing brands  
each night with a typical fare that was done  
in a smorgasbord style.

I highly recommend low water trips on  
the Salt River Wilderness with the caveat  
that the trip style is organized to match the  
lower water flows.

## Kansas City Paddler

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that is in stock!

(Should KCKA.....ACA.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

CLUB, ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB, ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEA KAYAK CLUB. Missouri: KANSAS CITY WHITEWATER CLUB, MISSOURI WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION, MU CANOE & KAYAK CLUB, OZARK MOUNTAIN PADDLERS, STREAMTEACH INC. Oklahoma: OKLAHOMA CITY OUTDOOR NETWORK. Texas: ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN, AUSTIN PADDLING CLUB, BAYOU CITY WHITEWATER CLUB, DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB, HILL COUNTRY PADDLERS, HOUSTON ASSOC. OF SEA KAYAKERS, HOUSTON CANOE CLUB, PADDLING ANGLERS IN CANOES & KAYAKS.

A few adjustments on our part will be needed to participate in the plan. All individuals who participate in KCKA float trips will need some type of ACA membership and will need to sign an ACA liability waiver in addition to the KCKA waiver. To satisfy the trip requirements a participant can be an annual member of ACA or they can pay a \$6 event fee. KCKA members who don't paddle won't need ACA membership unless they are an officer or board member.

Trip leaders will need to submit their trips to ACA prior to the event and then follow-up after the trip by forwarding a trip roster and any money collected to ACA or a club representative. Trip proposals can be sent by email or fax as late as Friday for a short notice weekend trip and ACA will let you name several rivers as possible locations. The actual mechanics are much more friendly than the rules posted on the ACA website.

Each participant must agree to wear a PFD and if Class II or greater whitewater is involved they will agree to wear a helmet. An exception for the helmet can sometimes be obtained via a written request to ACA.

ACA will give each KCKA member a big discount on ACA membership when KCKA becomes a Paddle America Club. With this discount, a single membership is \$20 and family membership is \$25. If you paddle once or twice a year then a \$6 event fee will be more appropriate. A subscription to Paddler Magazine is included with an annual membership. The cost to KCKA is \$75/year for a club membership.

As a KCA board member, trip leader and frequent participant, I am looking forward to obtaining liability insurance to cover all trips affiliated with KCKA. The availability of insurance will motivate me to convert my uninsured private trips to insured KCKA trips.

Soon the KCKA Board will be asked to approve affiliation with ACA and become a Paddle America Club. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [stuff2@chriscollins.com](mailto:stuff2@chriscollins.com) or 316-942-4339. I can either answer your questions or put you in touch with an ACA representative.



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**[www.eco-safe.net/](http://www.eco-safe.net/)**

(Pecos River.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Thursday - We left Lewis Canyon about an hour after Cliff. We lined most of Lewis Canyon rapid. Kathleen and Eric and I each took a turn at running the 2nd rapid in her kayak. Kathleen did well; Eric and I turned over. We had no prior kayak experience but it was so much fun I know I'll end up getting one. While eating lunch, we saw many fish swimming below. I threw them bits of tortilla and watched them readily eat it. Kathleen put some tortilla bits on a hook and caught a big catfish in less than a minute. We ate it for supper that night and it fed us all. We spent Thursday night at Painted Canyon rapid. The wind was awful. It blew a paddle out of the bottom of the boat but we got it back. It actually blew our ice chest over and dumped the contents, but we didn't lose anything. It blew the lid off our storage box although it was bungeed in place; we didn't get that back.

Friday - We portaged everything around Painted rapid - none of us ran that one. We fought wind all day Friday. About noon, Terry and Jill wrapped their boat around a boulder in an un-named rapid/riffle. Kevlar doesn't do well in that situation. It took four of us to free it. We took it ashore and used duct tape to cover the holes. Eric and I took their gear in our canoe. At first it felt like we were piloting a barge. Later we decided it was more like an oil tanker.

Saturday - The wind was down when we awoke, so we departed as early as possible. The wind was moderate for about two miles; then it came up with a vengeance. The weather was so windy and drizzly that apparently the fishermen didn't want to fish. We paddled all the way out without seeing any boats coming down river. We would paddle for a couple hundred yards, then huddle in a small cove or behind a boulder while we'd rest a few minutes. We wondered if y'all had it this bad. End.

## **KCKA Accessories**

### **Kayak Chapter Videos**

*T-Shirts - KCKA Decals - Ball Caps - Bumper Stickers*  
*Training & Trip Videos*

**Contact Pat Cullen - 6419 SE Stubbs Road**

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Need a membership application for you or a friend. Copy this one or go on-line in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page.



# KCKA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

[THIS PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEWSLETTER ROSTER]

**My areas of interest include (check all that apply):**

- Family/Flatwater Canoeing (Class I-II)
- Kayak Touring (Class I-II)
- Whitewater Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting (Class III+)

**CHECK ONE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Single / Family Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 Associate/Business Membership  
(w/a 6 column inch KCKA Newsletter ad & KCKA website ad)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Life Membership  
(does not include chapter dues)
- \_\_\_\_\_ My additional contribution to KCKA Conservation-Access Program

**OPTIONAL CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Kayak Chapter
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Kansas Whitewater Association Chapter

**TOTAL OF ALL FEES**

Please fill out this form completely, even if you are renewing. Send the application and your check for TOTAL OF ALL FEES to:

**Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association; PO Box 44-2490; Lawrence, KS 66044**

Please tell us how you heard about the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association - check all that apply:

- From a friend who boats
- Another KCKA Member: \_\_\_\_\_
- KANSAS PADDLER Home Page
- Information at a business (name): \_\_\_\_\_
- Article in News Media \_\_\_\_\_
- A KCKA activity booth
- Other/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

KCKA depends upon volunteer efforts. I am willing to help with these activities:

- Marketing/Membership
- Flatwater/Touring Trips
- Whitewater Trips
- Instruction/Safety
- Special Events, Rendezvous, etc
- Website

## General Waiver & Liability Release

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF DANGER INHERENT IN BOATING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF KANSAS CANOE & KAYAK ASSOCIATION (KCKA), ITS TRIP COORDINATORS, CLUB MEMBERS, CLUB OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THAT PARTICIPATION IN THESE EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FLOAT TRIP AND CAMP OUTINGS, ENTAILS UNAVOIDABLE RISK AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF LIFE AND OR PROPERTY. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE KCKA, TRIP COORDINATORS, OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF KCKA, I DO HEREBY FOR MYSELF AND FOR ALL WHO MAY HEREAFTER CLAIM THROUGH OR FOR ME, WAIVE AND RELEASE ALL FUTURE CLAIMS, RIGHTS AND CAUSES OF ACTION ACCORDED IN MY FAVOR AS A RESULT OF PERSONAL INJURIES, LOSS OF LIFE OR LOSS OF PROPERTY WHICH I MAY SUFFER WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CLUB EVENTS, AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE KCKA AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND I FURTHER HEREBY COVENANT AND AGREE, THAT NO SUIT OR ACTION AT LAW SHALL BE INSTITUTED FOR THE ABOVE REASONS BY ME OR OTHERS IN MY BEHALF OR IN MY RIGHT. HAVING READ AND UNDERSTANDING THE ABOVE, I FREELY SIGN THIS WAIVER AGREEMENT.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Whom to Notify in Emergency \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Address & Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature(s) X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent/Guardian (required if under 21) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address & Phone of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: 06/06/04

The Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association (KCKA), formerly the Kansas Canoe Association, organized April 26, 1975, is a Kansas Not-For-Profit Corporation. KCKA is an organization of canoeists, kayakers, and rafters working together to promote river running, education, conservation, access and related activities. Various Chapters of KCKA may be established within KCKA to help support the specific interests of Chapter members.

**KCKA Bylaws, Outdoor Code, KCKA History, Paddling Tips, Trip Waiver Forms, a list of businesses that extend KCKA Members a discount, and much more can be found on-line in the KANSAS PADDLER Home Page on the Membership Page**

# Editor's Column

Thank you all for the great photos sent in for the Summer Issue. I had quite a selection to choose from for this issue and they really make a newsletter come alive. We have been blessed with quite a set of amateur and professional photographers in KCKA. I'd like to recognize some of those featured in this and past newsletters. Some of the most prominent include:

- Bob Sinnett
- Chris Collins
- Le Imboden
- Cliff Long
- Kirk Haney
- Tom Jenkins
- Ray Cowin
- T.J. Hittle
- Terry Corbin
- Keith Ratzloff
- Jim Johnson
- Dave Irvin
- Jackie Rawlings
- Linda Rae
- Steve Riley
- Bill Cutler
- Jon Held

regular photographers. I'll add you into my next column. Also apologies if I missed



[Above: T.J. Hittle - at play on the Arkansas River in Wichita, KS below the tubes on 21st Street - photo by Kirk Haney  
Above Right: Salt River Group L-R BackRow Joe Galeazzi, TJ Hittle, Jim Johnson, Roger Norton, L-R Front Row: Dave Reid, Dave Murphy - photo by unknown hot river babe]



welcoming you as a new member in the last newsletter. Apparently, there was a glitch and we collectively missed welcoming a few new members, despite the large list. We are

PS: David Palmer.....your proofreading ROCKS! Thanks again

FYI, my office has a high-resolution film scanner, so I can take prints, negatives, or slides in addition to the always-appreciated digital photos sent in by email or on disk. I'll try to remember to return the prints; so don't be shy. Please remember to send in those great photos and don't forget a good caption with all the right names and places. Keep those great trip articles coming in!

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMIT-TAL DEADLINES:

- Fall - **September 1st**
  - Winter - **December 31st**
  - Spring - **March 15th**
  - Summer - **June 1st**
- 

My apologies if I've missed one of our

going to try to add you this time.



Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association  
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Lawrence, KS 66044

[KCA & Kayak Chapter logos by Rex Replogle]

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