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KCKA - Spring 2008 Rendezvous - Sat/Sun –April 26-27

The KCKA Spring 2008 Rendezvous and Potluck will be at the Fall River Reservoir (Fall River State Park) - Gobbler's Knob Campground within the Fredonia Bay Area. Fall River Lake is located 13 miles south of Eureka, KS on Hwy 99, then 11 miles east on Hwy 96/400. State Park maps are available on site or on-line at: http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/state_parks/locations/fall_river or call 620-637-2213 for more information.

Gobbler's Knob Campground is on the west side of the lake within the Fredonia Bay Area with primitive camping, mushroom shelters, bathrooms, and a trail to a nice boat ramp access. Look for the KCKA banner. A new enclosed



bathhouse/shower is also close by in the nearby Fredonia Bay Campground. Various hiking/biking trails are open for wildlife viewing. There will plenty of lakeside camping available this time of year.



The park doesn't officially open until May. Since there are no group camping sites that KCKA can reserve, each person will arrange for their own camping fees. If you identify yourself as a KCKA member, the non-profit camping fees should range from \$3-4/person. For any RV's, there are "utility only" sites available at the nearby Fredonia Bay Campground at additional cost. We have plans for local lake & river floats on Friday (evening), Saturday, and Sunday. KCKA membership is required.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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FRIDAY:

Friday evening, 8:00-9:00pm. - Optional lake floats.

This is always a great chance to socialize, so plan to arrive around before 7:00pm., Friday night. If you are driving in on Saturday morning, please plan to arrive and set up camp before 9:00 am. Friday evening, 7:00-8:00pm - KCKA Board meeting. Open invitation to all KCKA members.

SATURDAY:

Saturday, 9:00am - Leave for a lake area float trip or river trip. We will have the Potluck at 6:30-7:30pm Saturday evening. Fall River Lake Ranger Kim Jones will speak at 7:30pm about various trails on site and the wildlife typically seen at Fall River State Park.

David Cobb has set up a Geocaching event on the lake. Bring your GPS. See David Cobb for that information.

River guru, author, and KCKA member, Dave Murphy, will be available Saturday morning for a book signing of his new book Paddling Kansas!

SUNDAY:

Sunday, 9:00am - Leave for a lake area float trip or river trip.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to tjhittle@yahoo.com or call 785-539-7772.

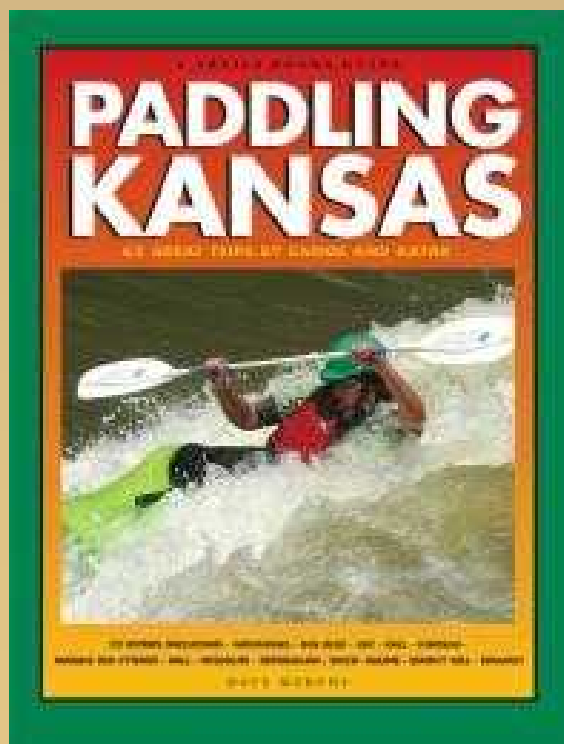
Paddlingly yours - TJ Hittle, Andy Boye & the KCKA Board.



Paddling Kansas Now Available

Five years in the writing, **PADDLING KANSAS**, the long awaited guidebook to the rivers and streams of Kansas has opened a new door to paddling in Kansas. Written by Dave Murphy, the 172 page (8 ½ x 11") book provides maps, a general description of each river segment, brief narratives, difficulty ratings, estimate of the float times, minimum recommended flows, gradients, gauging stations, access points, shuttle routes, information for anglers and local contact numbers on more than 100 publicly accessible river and stream segments across the state.

Dave Murphy's book, PADDLING KANSAS will be available at bookstores and outfitter stores by mid-April. If you would like an autographed copy you can come to the book signing at the KCKA – Spring 2008 Rendezvous, Sat/Sun – April 26-27 at Fall River Reservoir. The book cost at the



Rendezvous will be \$21.45, which includes tax. You can order the book and help benefit KCKA by sending check or money order to KCKA, P.O. Box 44-2490, Lawrence, KS 66044. The cost, including tax and shipping/handling is \$26.95. Please make checks and money orders payable to KCKA.



T.J. Hittle and Jackie Rawlings on Rock Creek. This is one of more than 100 great river segments that are described in Dave Murphy's new book, PADDLING KANSAS.

MEMBER TRIP REPORTS

TEXAS RIVERS AND BACKWATERS

Reported by Jack D. Norris

FLOAT DATE: April 2007

LOCATION: Village Creek Silsbee, Texas

Took a leisurely 2 day float along Village Creek. Put in outside of Silsbee (East Texas). This is a pretty, meandering stream through typical eastern Texas riparian habitat of pines, oaks, mesquite, cypress, etc. Water quality was good with several sand banks to camp along. The sand is white, causing a pleasant contrast to the dark banks. Several downed trees were encountered, causing minor obstacles to drag the kayaks over. Arranged a take-out at the end of the second day. The only downside to the trip was negotiating heavy Texas traffic.

FLOAT DATE: March 2007

LOCATION: Sabine River near Beaumont, Texas, on the border of Texas and Louisiana

This is a BIG river! Made a day trip out of paddling thru the Cypress swamp backwater

along the edges of the river. A lot of wildlife, birds, and snakes. This is a good location for up-close encounters with alligators. Depending on how far you paddled into the backwater, at least a compass is recommended. There apparently are quite a few public put-ins for power boats/shore fishing along the river; we picked one at random. Total mileage on the Sabine was not long for our one day trip there. We criss-crossed, meandered, and looped along the backwater, occasionally having to back out of a dead end. The ultimate goal was getting close to alligators and other wildlife along the way. I chose to go during the middle of March last year simply to get over the winter's cabin fever. It is probably better to wait another month or so to see more 'gators and other wildlife, but I wouldn't wait until mid-summer unless you don't mind the humid/hot conditions of that area (also mosquitoes!). The big downside, again, is dealing with typical heavy Texas traffic to get there.

For more information about these paddling locations, contact Jack Norris at jack.d.norris@boeing.com .

River Trolls & Memphis Creek Week

Reported by TJ Hittle

Float Dates: March 13-15, 2008

Location: Pickett State Park, Tennessee

Wow! Another great Memphis Creek Week was had by all this year at Pickett State Park, TN. With plenty of rain the week before, the major creeks and all of the major rivers were still running strong. Joe Galeazzi and I drove down and met a lot of new faces this year and renewed friendships with many others.



Drew Armstrong below a big drop on Daddy's Creek Canyon (Class IV), TN - photo by TJ Hittle

Our runs:

Thursday, March 13: Daddy's Creek (IV) had just enough for a good low water run, but might not hold without the predicted rain, so we went. Antioch-OBJ, a 9 mile run since DBT was closed in Catoosa. It was classic steep creekin'. Some great drops. The 1/2 mile climb out at OBJ was pretty easy. AW makes it sound way worse that it actually is. Must be some serious lightweights at AW now-a-days. Drew Armstrong led most of the way. The highlight for me was running lead into Rocking Chair. I still don't know what I hit in the bottom but it shot me about 10 feet to the left. I went into and under the huge undercut boulder on the left below Rocking Chair.....actually not so much fun at the time.

The rest of our group said I just disappeared.....like magic. I knew it was bad. By the time I made it fully in and under and out, my hands were pretty beat up and my helmet had a bunch more gouges. I am guessing that it was under only 20-30 seconds, but it seemed like much more. I can hold my breath for a long time, but I was completely out of air and starting to think bad thoughts. I had plenty of time to evaluate my life again and I think I saw Elvis waving me home. I knew that my wife, Jackie, would really be mad if I gave up since she

would have to vacuum the house by herself, and I really love to vacuum, so I just kept pulling me and my boat through upside down.....kind of like a really long Eskimo rescue. It was certainly a near miss, but the river trolls let me through the darkness of a huge undercut that day. I gotta remember to not to do that EVER again.

A day later, they had to take a set of vice grips to my gold wedding band since it had been flattened into my ring finger by rocks that had pounded my hands. It was cutting off the circulation. Thank you Bill Fordyce. My little gold band looked more like a football afterwards.....but I was told that a good jeweler can make it look just like new again.

Friday, March 14: We stepped into another Obed-Emory classic.....Clear Creek (III-IV), from Jett-Nemo, a 10 mile run. I love the idea of running 3 streams in one event. Clear Creek, Obed River, Emory River. Pretty cool stuff. I led on Wooten's Folly, the crux rapid on Clear Creek, and had a stellar run.....thank goodness.....after my near miss on Daddy's Creek. We received some more rain that day.

Saturday, March 15: David Luinstra thought that Crooked Fork (IV), another classic fun 6 mile run was just up enough for a run. After driving to Wartburg, TN and checking the gauge in town, sure enough, it was good. It was raining when we launched. We launched at Potter's Falls and ran down from there. What a great run. It has tons of



TJ Hittle & Joe Galeazzi running sweep for a group on Crooked Fork Creek (Class IV), TN - photo by Bill Fordyce



KCKA Member, Joe Galeazzi lines up for another big drop on the Crooked Fork Creek (Class IV), TN - photo by Bill Fordyce

steep, sometimes blind, drops. With David's help, everyone made it down just fine. Crooked Fork was a new run for me. It is a must do Obed-Emory steep creek.

AW describes most of these runs and has some good pics, so I won't bore you with the details.

Another great Memphis Creek Week event with the good water levels, great food, great camping, great parties in the evenings, and good fortune from the river trolls. Alive, and it doesn't get any better than that. - TJ Hittle

THE TEN ESSENTIALS

(Plus More)

The 10 Essentials are all about peace of mind. During a routine backpacking or paddling trip you may have no need for several of these items. But if something unexpected occurs, you don't want to be caught without them. These few items might even save your life. When building your emergency paddling kit, remember to have these items. You never know when you will need them. (Thanks to REI.com)

1. Map (in a watertight case)
2. Compass (plus an optional GPS receiver)
3. Extra clothing (men's, women's, kids')
4. Extra food and water
5. First-aid kit
6. Headlamp or flashlight (with extra batteries)
7. Matches (storm proof, or in a watertight container)
8. Fire starter
9. Knife (or multi-use camp tool)
10. Sunglasses
11. Sunscreen
12. Water filter (or other method of water treatment)
13. Whistle
14. Food storage device
15. Knowledge (How to use these items, route information, etc.)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



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