



# **ETWC NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016**

**PROMOTE** canoeing and kayaking as a water sport  
**TEACH** boating techniques and water safety for river travel  
**PRESERVE** our remaining wilderness rivers for future generations



## **Dues are due!**

If you want to pay online, fill out the form [HERE](#)

Or, Send Kary your \$15 check payable to ETWC along with the membership form at the end of this newsletter to address on form.

## **Club Meeting**

Tuesday, April 19,  
2016 7:30 pm

Our speaker will be Marvin Bullock with the Sparta/White County Chamber of Commerce. Marvin is trying to keep TWRA from shutting down the Catoosa WMA at their discretion and has some interesting information. See:

[www.Roomforboth.com](http://www.Roomforboth.com)

*the hill within Greystone  
Apts on Solway Rd ½ mile  
from Hardin Valley Rd.*

We will also meet and eat before the meeting at Grill Don Gallos on Hardin Valley Rd, 6pm. Call IAN 865-382-5723 if you want to come eat so he can save you a spot.

*The meeting will be at the  
club house at the top of*

## 2016 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Ian Anderson	865-382-5723	<a href="mailto:nai.nosredna@gmail.com">nai.nosredna@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Donna Price	865-406-1058	<a href="mailto:donnaprice826@yahoo.com">donnaprice826@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Jimmy Groton	865-805-9908	<a href="mailto:groton87@comcast.net">groton87@comcast.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kary Scarborough	865-483-7525	<a href="mailto:kary_scarborough@att.net">kary_scarborough@att.net</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Bill Lewis	865-387-7821	<a href="mailto:bill.lewis865@gmail.com">bill.lewis865@gmail.com</a>
<b>Roll Practice</b>	Rick Zingg	865-675-4184	<a href="mailto:zinggds@gmail.com">zinggds@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trip Coordinator</b>	Ken Schneider	865-671-0673	<a href="mailto:ken48work@yahoo.com">ken48work@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Bill Wilder	865-603-7984	<a href="mailto:NBWilder@att.net">NBWilder@att.net</a>
<b>Conservation</b>	Mark Bevelhimer	865-679-9242	<a href="mailto:mbevelhimer@gmail.com">mbevelhimer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safety</b>	Rick Zingg	865-675-4184	<a href="mailto:zinggds@gmail.com">zinggds@gmail.com</a>
<b>Kayak Clinic</b>	Ken Schneider	865-441-5270	<a href="mailto:ken48work@yahoo.com">ken48work@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	April Morton	909-859-5542	<a href="mailto:april.m.morton@gmail.com">april.m.morton@gmail.com</a>

### **Please keep your dues up to date!**

If you want to pay online via PayPal, fill out the form at:  
[http://www.etwcweb.com/concrete/membership/online\\_form](http://www.etwcweb.com/concrete/membership/online_form)  
 Or, send Kary your \$15 check payable to ETWC along with the membership form at the end of this newsletter to:

**ETWC**  
**P.O. Box 5774**  
**Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5774**

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - 7<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**

Newsletter Editor: Bill Lewis  
 Phone: 865-387-7821      Email: [bill.lewis865@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lewis865@gmail.com)  
 Photos in jpeg, gif, or bmp format.  
 Reports and Classifieds as a Word or Text File Document.  
 Check out our website at <http://www.etwcweb.com>

**River Gauges, see ETWC Forum**  
[\*\*AWW What's Running in East Tennessee\*\*](#)

**Presentation #1: Morgan County Mountain Laurel Festival**

Juanita Guinn spoke about the Morgan County Mountain Laurel Festival which will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 on the square in Wartburg. She is seeking the club's help to introduce people to paddling, especially Morgan County residents. There will be exhibits at the main festival with an opportunity to show paddling films to attract people's interest. There will also be an opportunity to engage people to go down to Nemo Picnic Area and actually get in a boat and paddle around the large pool above Nemo rapid. She said there are plans to have both canoes and kayaks for people to try. The idea is to reach out to Morgan County residents and introduce them to paddling. This is similar to what the club has done in the past in support of Discovery Fest. It would also be a good opportunity to promote the clinic. Ken volunteered to check on videos to show at the main festival in Wartburg.

**Presentation #2: Diving in Roatan**

Sam gave a presentation on scuba diving. He brought all of his dive gear to demonstrate and he also showed a short video about a dive trip he attended in Roatan in June 2015. The video was made by some of his dive partners.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kary reported that we have \$1,770.68 in our checking account and \$6,545.25 in our savings account. She also requested permission to pay \$549.84 to Go Daddy to pay for a 5-year renewal for our website and domain name.

**Conservation**

TCWP is working with the Obed Wild and Scenic River to host the annual Obed River Cleanup on Saturday, March 26. The trip will start at Devil's Breakfast Table on Daddys Creek and end up at Nemo. The trip will include rafts and duckies with support from canoes and kayaks. This is a great time to help clean up the Obed. Contact Sandra Goss ([sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com), 583-3967) to register or find out more details. The trip is subject to weather and flow conditions (flows too high or low, cold temperatures). Some raft space may be available.

The Emory River Watershed Association is competing for several grants that would promote recreational opportunities and/or habitat restoration in the Emory River Watershed. ERWA would like the support of ETWC to provide in-kind support with the projects.

## **Next Meeting**

The next ETWC meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

### **Volunteers needed to assist the NPS Obed Wild & Scenic River**

The NPS' annual Morgan County 6th Graders "National Park in your Backyard" program which is their primary and most important educational outreach effort to the local community will be held on weekdays from May 16 through May 24, 2016. Tuesday, May 24 will be a weather make-up day and will also have home schooled students. Please check your busy schedules and determine which days that you can be available for the boating portion of the program. I will send out another email in early May to learn which dates you have chosen.

A typical day in the program begins at 8:30 a.m. when we volunteers assist the NPS folks with the unloading boats and gear, and in sorting the helmets and PFDs by size. The 6th Graders will arrive at Lilly Bridge by bus around 9 a.m. and be welcomed by NPS rangers before being divided into two groups. One group will go to rock climbing on river right, and the other will go to the water program on river left.

The water program students gather at the top of the Lilly Bridge parking lot and are fitted with helmets and PFDs before they carry the boats and paddles to the water. The NPS folks will then have the students do a program that involves gathering critters from the creek and then sorting and identifying them to demonstrate how pure the water in the stream is. During the critters program, we volunteers sort boats and paddles a bit to make the rush for the water a little less hectic. When the critters program is complete, we re-check the fit of helmets and PFDs and assist the students into boats. The only real instruction given at the edge of the water is how to exit a kayak if it flips - the main emphasis is for the students to have fun. As the students enter the water, most of the volunteers will accompany them in their own watercraft, and may give them some pointers if they ask. The volunteers also keep the students paddling above the rapid at the foot of the pool. If the weather is warm and the teachers agree, we let the students have a short swim near the upstream end of the pool. The students then return to the parking lot for lunch, and leave the helmets and PFDs at the top of the trail.

We take a lunch break, sort the helmets and PFDs again, and repeat the water program with the group that had been rock climbing on river right. The afternoon group carries the boats and paddles back to the parking area before

leaving on the bus around 3 p.m. to return to their school. We help the NPS folks load the boats on their trucks and trailer before leaving.

Volunteers for the boating program should bring lunch, a water bottle, sunscreen and some insect repellent as well as your boat and paddling gear. There will be a form to sign as an NPS Volunteer.

The goal of the boating portion of the program is for the volunteers to have at least as much fun as the students have.

Please call Billy Bob or Kary by email [bill\\_scarborough@bellsouth.net](mailto:bill_scarborough@bellsouth.net) or at 865-483-7525 to volunteer, or for more information on this award winning program.

### **SCOUTING, by Teresa Gryder.**

Scouting in whitewater is the judicious practice of taking a good hard look at the river when it isn't obvious where you should go. Normally we scout the biggest rapids on any given run, just to have a clear idea of what we are up against. Here we will review the reasons we scout, some ways of scouting, a few important considerations when scouting, and some solutions to common problems encountered when scouting.

#### **REASONS**

We scout rapids because we want to survive. First each one of us decides if we are going to run it—or not. If we decide to run it then we pick a line through the rapid. If we decide not to run it then we are scouting for a good portage route.

When you paddle up to a blind horizon on the river, and can't tell where to go, scouting is warranted. We scout more when we are running a new river or a hard rapid, or a familiar river at an unfamiliar water level. Rivers change, and those changes can be dangerous. Sometimes, especially after a wind storm or a bout of high water, new wood can wash into rapids. Very high flows can cause rocks to shift around making the river completely different. Changing riverbeds can even change the gauge reading by altering the river's surface height at the gauge location.

Scouting is how we figure out how to run a tricky rapid. Picking a line while scouting is usually much easier than figuring it out while you're in the boat headed downstream. Sometimes all you learn from scouting is that you are not going to run that rapid. That alone makes it worth scouting.

## WAYS

The most convenient scouting is from the road on your way up to the put-in. Sometimes we stop and bushwhack closer to the water to get a good look at the big ones. Once on the water, scouting involves climbing out of your boat so that you can walk along the bank and see what the river does next. At times land-based scouting requires rock climbing, rappelling or zip lining to get a good view of a cascade. Most of us don't get this aggressive but for those pushing the limits of class V these tools are essential. Old school boaters are more likely to be found probing the water at the bottom of a drop with a long pole to find out how deep is it, or scouting rapids at very low water then returning later to run them with more water in there.

When a river is not too steep and has good eddies, boat scouting is a legitimate option. Boat scouting involves going downstream only as far as you can see another eddy, and stopping there until you figure out where to go next. Generally speaking you can see more of the rapid the closer you get to it. There is added risk in boat scouting because you could miss an eddy, or the eddy you catch could put you in the wrong position. Sometimes there is no eddy above a drop that you would not want to run. Sometimes the last eddy does not give you any way to escape the river. We resort to bank scouting for all these reasons.

*One time when I was younger and more foolish than I am today, I launched on the Upper Yough in PA all alone without having ever seen the river. I planned to boat scout the run, but I ended up in the last mid-river eddy above Gap Falls with no idea where to run it, and no way to get back to shore. The rapid is only a 3+ but I was unwilling to go over the edge not knowing what was down there. I waited. Luckily for me a group of local paddlers came by 10 minutes later and I was able to follow them down the run.*

Modern scouting has some new options. You can "video scout" most famous rapids, finding a variety of videos on youtube and vimeo. Of course this scouting is done while you are still at home using a computer. (Here's one of my personal favorites: <https://youtu.be/YiGmeq8fcOg>.) Drones are used by elite paddling teams to look over the edge and to film people running giant drops. Last but not least, lower tech contraptions like Lee Session's camera-kite could be used for scouting.

## CONSIDERATIONS

For the new paddler, it isn't easy to know if a line is feasible from looking at it. Rapids that look impossible can turn out to be easy, and those that look easy can be trickier than they appear. In particular watch out for water that shifts

laterally in the river. We like to think that the river goes straight downstream but in fact it shifts left and right, speeds up and slows down, and when you scout you should be looking for these things.

Also, always pick a plan B. Try to identify the crux move of the line you have chosen, and decide what you will do if you blow that move. If there is more than one crux, have more than one backup plan. If there is only one route option, or the rapid has a scary name like “Killer Fang Falls”, that is reason enough to portage it. Some paddlers decline to run any rapid that they would be unwilling to swim.

Flow volume is notoriously difficult to judge. This is why we use gauges and markers to know how today’s water level relates to levels seen before. A river may not look very big until you see a kayak look so tiny in it that it could be a flea on a dog. Sizes and distances are nearly impossible to judge without something familiar for visual scale, like a person, boat or car, or trees of a known size.

*One time I went paddling in the Chilean Andes with a group of veteran river guides from the Nantahala Outdoor Center. We scouted the Rio Volcan in the headwaters of the Maipo River and decided that the flow looked similar to that of the Ocoee in Tennessee, about 1,200 cfs. When we launched we knew that it was more than that, because we could hear stones tumbling along the bottom of the river. When we approached the first rapid it became obvious that we’d made a terrible mistake. I caught the first eddy I could find. Unfortunately the others entered the rapid. We ended up with two swimmers, one dislocated shoulder, one boat pinned and another lost, and one person on the wrong side of the river without a boat. We learned later that the flow was closer to 12,000 cfs. Our flow estimate was off by a factor of 10. We’d been deceived by the sheer size of the Andes; rock and snow had not provided anything familiar for a size comparison.*

It’s also difficult to know how much the river drops from an overhead view. The perspective you get looking down on a river from a road high on the mountainside makes drops look smaller than they are. Papa Bear on the Mollala is one rapid that looks flat from the road but is quite blind from boat-level. Even when scouting you can’t tell the height of a waterfall when looking straight down it from the top, but when you are at the base you can see its height. Video scouting takes this challenge into another medium. Headcam go-pro video is misleading because paddlers mount their camera on top of their helmets. This slightly elevated perspective makes rivers look much easier in the video than they actually are. Even knowing about this distortion you can still make mistakes.

*Renee and I wanted to paddle the infamous Cross Mountain Canyon on the Yampa in Colorado. We knew the water was low (about 200 cfs), and that the run was 2 miles long through a sheer-walled canyon. We hid our kayaks at the put-in, drove our truck to the take-out, and then hiked over Cross Mountain on the edge of the river gorge, scouting the river with binoculars. The guidebook told us there was one rapid that made a terminal hole at high water, but we had no idea what it would be like at low water. We saw a couple of holes from our cliff that looked like they might eat a kayak.*

*We finished our hike back up to the hidden kayaks and launched to learn that there was nary a boat-stopping hole in the whole run; the water was too low. Two hundred cubic feet per second is not much water. The rapids that had looked intimidating from above were little sluices with good eddies above and below. The holes were so tiny that you could float through them without paddling. We had been frightened by our interpretation of the river from 300 feet overhead using magnifying binoculars.*

## SOLUTIONS

When scouting a river, look up from the water to get the whole setting. Broaden your view to take in major landscape features like cliffs, bends, clear-cuts and tributaries. This helps you keep track of where you are.

Choose landmarks in rapids that you will be able to see from river-level. When you scout from above this is especially important. While you are on land you may think you'll be able to find the slot that is 10 feet from the left bank, but it can look so different from the boat that you aren't even sure it's the same rapid.

Generally speaking the landmarks that are most visible from above a drop are located at the edge or horizon line, where the river begins to fall downhill. Things that are farther downstream may be hidden by the drop in the river. Look for water features (like a roostertail or eddy line) or distinctive rocks. Decide while scouting where you want to be relative to your marker, and which way you want your momentum to be going. Are you going to float downstream or charge? Cut in behind the rock or move away from it? That's the first move, going over the edge. Plan ahead for the next move by picking another mark and position relative to it, and study as many markers as you need to know where you are the whole way through the rapid. To hit your moves decisively you may need to start moving in the right direction *before* you get to your landmark.



Scout from more than one perspective. If you are in a raft or canoe, you can stand up to see more over the edge. If you scouted from a high place and you aren't sure where to go over the edge when you get there, get out and scout again. If it's a really big rapid and you are not sure of your line, scout from both sides of the river. Before you get back into your boat, squat down to boat level and make sure you can see where you plan to go. If you can't, scout for another landmark to get you there.

When you are scouting, bring your throw rope with you. You can provide shore-based safety to anyone who decides to run it before you, or to anyone who accidentally falls in while scouting.

Don't try routes that you can't see for yourself. People will be happy to tell you where to go, but you need to be able to pick your own line. Practice picking your own routes through small rapids, instead of following. When you scout a big one, spot a route that looks feasible before you ask where everyone else is going. Visualize yourself finding that route and acing it, then do it and you own that line.

Scout often and be honest with yourself. If you were able to do what you planned, congratulations. If you misjudged the water, count that as a learning experience. The more you scout (and the more mistakes you make) the better you will get at it.

## **ETWC Forum**

Check out the discussions on our forum:

<http://etwcweb.com/discuss/>

## **Roll Practice 8:30pm Friday Nights, Oak Ridge Civic Center Pool**

DATE

NAME

Apr 22 2016. . . Rick Zingg

Apr 29 2016. . . Kary Scarborough

Then we move to the lake! Summer is almost here.

## Trip Reports!

Spring is nearing and we want to tell everyone about our winter trips. Send trip reports to Bill, including videos if you have them!

Please send reports to Yours Truly at [bill.lewis865@gmail.com](mailto:bill.lewis865@gmail.com).

## PROGRAMS

We are always looking for interesting programs for our meetings. If you have a program or an idea please contact Donna Price at 865-406-1058.

**EAST TENNESSEE WHITEWATER CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM**

Dues: \$15.00 Yearly Family Membership (*January 1 renewal date*)  
Send to: East Tennessee Whitewater Club, P.O. Box 5774, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5774

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by email. (circle) Yes No

Membership Status? (circle) New Renewal

What boats do you paddle? (circle) Kayak C-1 C-2 Solo Canoe Tandem Canoe

What is your paddling ability? (circle) Beginner Intermediate Advanced Expert  
Class I-II Class III Class IV Class V

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, desiring to join my fellow paddlers in the East Tennessee Whitewater Club (ETWC), do hereby declare that I fully understand and accept the following facts of life on the river:

1. Canoeing, kayaking, or rafting, particularly on whitewater rivers, exposes the participants to various safety hazards, including but not limited to, water hazards (boulders, undercut rocks, trees, strainers, water formations such as water falls, holes, keepers, hydraulics, and other obstacles), swimming in turbulent water, using paddling equipment, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, and travel in a vehicle not driven by me.
2. No one but I am responsible for my safety when I choose to paddle a particular river or a particular rapid.
3. I further understand that I have no legal duty to assist others, nor does anyone else have a legal duty to render such assistance to me. I certify that I am in good physical condition, that I can swim, and that I have no physical defects or injuries that would prevent me from participating in this activity. I fully understand and agree that, when I participate in canoeing, kayaking, or rafting, there is always the possibility of unknown, uncontrollable dangers and accidental or other physical injury and death. I know I can be killed, and I willingly assume the risks referred to in Paragraph 1 and elsewhere in this release.

Therefore, in consideration for granting me the right to join and participate in ETWC activities, and intending to be legally bound, I hereby release, waive and discharge my right to sue ETWC, its trip coordinators, instructors, leaders, officers, directors, representatives, agents, employees, and affiliates, and also any landowner or governmental unit which may allow ETWC to use its property, for any and all loss or damage on account of injury to my person or property or on account of my death, which may occur during, in preparation for, or in transit to or from an ETWC activity.

I further understand that ETWC carries no insurance for the protection of participants in whitewater activities, and any insurance coverage existing with respect to ETWC shall not alter the terms of this waiver nor impose any liability on ETWC.

This waiver applies only to acts or omissions of ordinary negligence and to any deliberate act intended to promote my safety or well being.

This waiver is signed by me in the interest of permitting ETWC to exist and to serve the paddling community, and to enable me and my fellow paddlers to feel free to donate their services to improving the sport and to help in training those less skilled in the sport without fear of liability.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS RELEASE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

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

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

**(Parent or guardian if participant is under 18 years of age)**