



ETWC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014



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

ETWC Annual Christmas Party

6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December
13, 2014

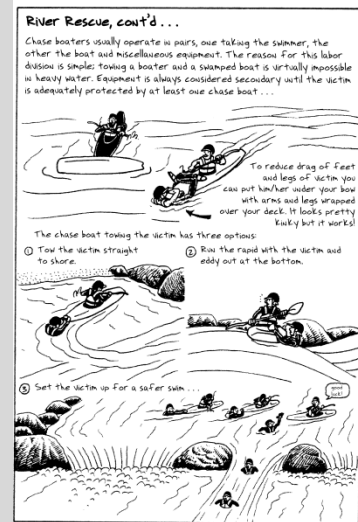
Sam Suffern's home
at 126 Everest
Circle

The club will provide
ham, turkey, wine, beer,
and soft drinks.

Attendees should bring a
side dish.

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

If you want to
participate in the
traditional Chinese Gift
Exchange, bring a small
wrapped gift (valued
around \$20) See
directions on page 4



2014 OFFICERS

President	Ian Anderson	865-382-5723	nai.nosredna@gmail.com
Vice President	Donna Price	865-406-1058	donnaprice826@yahoo.com
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Newsletter	Bill Lewis	865-387-7821	bill.lewis865@gmail.com
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Trip Coordinator	Ken Schneider	865-671-0673	ken48work@yahoo.com
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Kayak Clinic	Ken Schneider	865-441-5270	ken48work@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Billy Bob and Benny Hicks	865-386-6342	bghicks@pstcc.edu

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
 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 – 7TH OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Editor: Bill Lewis
 Phone: 865-387-7821 Email: 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](#)

ETWC, November 18, 2014 meeting

Treasurer's Report

Kary reported that we have \$1,672.76 in our checking account and \$6,529.14 in our savings account.

Donations

The club talked about and voted on donations for 2015. Ian read an email from Warren Devine about the current status of the Cumberland Trail Conference, a group we have been donating to for years. In the spring of 2014 Tennessee State Parks pressured Tennessee Trails Association (CTC's parent organization) to dissolve CTC, putting State Parks over all trail development. The CTC was un-dissolved a month later but has no agreement with the state on what they can do and there is no guarantee that contributions would be wisely used. The club voted not to contribute to CTC at this time, at least not until things are resolved between CTC, State Parks, and TTA. The rest of the proposed contributions were approved.

• Citizen's for Wilderness Planning)	TCWP	(Tennessee
	\$200	
• Whitewater)	AW	(American
	\$200	
• Smoky Mountains	Friends of the Great	
	\$100	
• Conservation Association)	NPCA (National Parks	
	\$100	
• Association	American	Canoe
	\$125	
• Clean Water Network)	TCWN	(Tennessee
	<u>\$100</u>	
	\$825	

Nominating Committee

Mark Bevelhimer and Pat Zingg reported that most 2014 officers they had contacted have agreed to serve again. Mark volunteered to do Conservation. Donna Price agreed to be the Vice President with the understanding that ETWC members will come to her with presentations for meetings. Rick Zingg "volunteered" to do Safety.

Conservation

Jimmy Groton reported that TCWP received a special grant to purchase 24 acres on Clear Creek below Barnett. They will turn the acres over to the Park Service at the end of the year.

TCWP is negotiating with the owners to buy 63 acres on the Obed River upstream of Obed Junction. The tract contains an amazing Rock House. If TCWP is successful in purchasing the tract they will need help raising the money and will turn to groups such as ETWC and the climbers for contributions.

Land upstream and downstream of Camp Austin Bridge on river right has been donated to TWRA by Dave and Willa Reister, a longtime supporter of Sierra Club and other organizations. For years the Reisters have let ETWC use their property as a take-out for the Nemo-Camp Austin run on the Emory. Changes are being made which will improve the take out.

Christmas Party

Ian reminded everyone that the annual ETWC Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 13 at Sam Suffern's home.

New Business

Ted Buel talked about setting up next year's Chattooga overnighiter for Memorial Day Weekend. Everyone was enthusiastic about doing the Chattooga trip again. He proposed getting two cabins this year and everyone agreed. It was suggested that at least one of the cabins have an open floor plan so everyone can gather there.

Tom Lessick suggested ETWC also do an overnighiter on the Nolichucky sometime in late April and will check into possible accommodations.

Ian talked about the huge success of the ETWC GAF overnighiter this past September. Everyone agreed ETWC should do a GAF overnighiter again next year.

TCWP will hold its annual Cumberland Trail work day on the Alley Ford segment of the CT on Saturday, February 21, 2015. The TCWP Obed Cleanup float trip will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Rafts and paddlers will run Daddy's Creek down to Nemo. TCWP will also sponsor its second annual clean up on the Big South Fork on April 11, 2015. Paddlers are needed to go along on both trips as helpers and as safety boaters. Non-paddlers will be able to ride in rafts provided by the park service. The Park will have its annual volunteer appreciation lunch and cleanup at the Obed on May 16, 2015.

Presentation

Matt Hudson, Chief Ranger at the Obed Wild and Scenic River National Park, showed the new award winning Obed movie and talked about the making of the movie. The movie conveys the sense of beauty and diversity in the park through all four seasons of the year. It shows locals, paddlers, climbers, hikers and fishermen enjoying the Obed. The movie was contracted with Silver Fir Media of Chicago and is not typical of other park movies. Matt also thanked ETWC for our help with the making of the movie and for our other volunteer efforts in the park. The movie is available on DVD at the Obed Visitor center for \$10. For a limited time the movie can be streamed from the Obed website: <http://www.nps.gov/obed/photosmultimedia/special-media-presentation.htm>.

Thanks to Kary for taking great minutes while I went to get speakers so we could hear the Obed movie soundtrack that was the focus of Matt's excellent presentation!

ETWC Christmas Party

Hey gang, Sam has once again agreed to host our Christmas party this year at his home in Oak Ridge.

ETWC will provide a ham and a turkey and various other things. Attendees should bring a dish to share for supper and/or dessert and a gift if you desire to participate in the now world famous gift exchange extravaganza that is often copied but never equaled.

Directions from Knoxville:

Take Rt 62 into Oak Ridge. At the Y-12 Federal Credit Union take a right onto Lafayette Avenue. Once on Lafayette Avenue go to the fourth traffic light, this should be the Oak Ridge Turnpike. Go right onto the Oak Ridge Turnpike. Travel past the Sonic and through the red light at Fairbanks Road. The Oak Ridge Veterinary Clinic will be on the right take the next left at the former Mattress Outlet Store (now closed). Travel a short block to a tee in the road. Turn right onto California Avenue, at the intersection with Delaware Avenue bare right; staying on California Avenue. Go to the top of the hill (approximately 1.1 miles). Take a right on East Drive, travel 300 yards and turn left onto Everest Circle. Sam's house is the second house on the left.

In case these directions don't work for you give Sam a call (483-4800), and he will talk you in. See you Saturday.

Trip Reports

Dare to dance with the Giantess

By John (Gunny) Wiser

(ETWC Beginner Clinic Class of 2013)

Lower Gauley River - October 11th, 2014 - 3180 CFS

The terms "huge waves" and "monster rapids" are relative to your level of experience. Since I have been paddling just little over a year it is easy for me to remember when Lesser Wesser Falls on the Nantahala fit that bill. I had that same nervous uneasy feeling during my initial encounter with Quarter Mile Rapid on the Nolichucky, again at the put-in looking at Grumpy's Rapid on the Middle Ocoee for the first time, and yet again when I peeled out for my inaugural voyage through the Olympic Section on the Upper Ocoee. I would think that after pushing myself to try harder rivers multiple times that I would get accustomed to that feeling when stepping up to the next level, but for me that isn't the case at all. I just try to keep it contained into that little ball in my gut and not let it gain strength. There is an old Marine Corps saying "Mind over matter. If you don't mind then it doesn't matter" that has become a renewed mantra for me lately.

I could feel the confidence I had built up over the previous weeks paddling the Ocoee was starting to wane as I stood on the bank of the Lower Gauley River on this cool damp morning, but a quick look to either side of me helped return some of my lost verve. Standing there with me was Kim Abney, John Butler and Lee Belknap, aka my kayaking senseis. It is to this core group of paddlers that I owe so much. Without them letting me tag along over the last fifteen months I might well have gone by the wayside after attending the paddling school as so many students do. I am so thankful that they have become my trusted friends as well as my teachers. It is because of my faith in them that I feel I can keep my date to dance with the Giantess on this rainy overcast day.

The Lower Gauley River is similar in width to the Middle Ocoee and this day it was flowing slightly higher than normal at 3180 CFS due to the rain over the last two days. As we slipped in at the Wood's Ferry put-in I could sense the power of this river. Even here where the river was at its widest and deepest the flow of the current was obvious and I could feel the anticipation starting to build within me. Lee explained to me that it will be a couple of miles until we reach the first of the "biggies" and then we headed downstream to the big dance. We first come to Ender's waves (Class III) and my first thought upon seeing them was "And these are the little ones?" Thankfully it was a

pretty straightforward wavetrain which we ran without incident, but I was feeling tight. I was struggling to keep my imagination in check when thinking about what lay ahead. I knew I needed to relax and trust my skills, but that is easier said than done when you can hear the Giantess growling her displeasure in the distance at our uninvited trespass.

Next up was Walk your Dog which was a flume glancing off of a large rock angling downward to the right from river left. I misjudged the deceptive speed of the river and started my left to right approach too late. The force of the current nearly pushed me into the rock. I paddled hard as I could to the right but it had all of the same effect as quickly trying change the direction of a moving car on glare ice. The current swept me over the sloped shoulder of the rock into the boiling seam hole that started the eddy line and I was immediately upside down. Instinctively I assumed the tuck position and went for the roll which I missed right along with my second attempt. As I put myself in position for the third try I could hear Kim and John's voices in my head telling me to wait until it feels like you are moving at the same speed as the water around you. Determined to not swim this early into the trip, I concentrated on performing the movement correctly and was rewarded with fresh air. I swear I could hear the Giantess chuckling at me from downriver. Two rapids later I had company sharing my subsurface adventures, but we both managed to roll up on our first attempt.

Some people would be having an anxiety attack at this point with having been flipped twice on "easier rapids" already, but I guess I am built a little differently. After successfully rolling up twice in a row I could feel my confidence return and I said to the giantess "You wanna dance? Ok then, let's dance!" We slid through the next several rapids without issue and we were feeling great as we worked our way through the first of the "biggies", Back Ender. My confidence level was back to its normal optimistic self!

Lee motioned us into an eddy and I could hear the Giantess roar "Now it's time to see if you can dance little one" in her thunderous voice directly below us. Lee stated that we were just above Koontz Flume, the second of the "biggies". He explained the approach and tried to describe what I would see as I entered the top of the tongue. There are just some things words can't describe. If you haven't run this rapid then I am sure I will fail in my description to you as well, but I will try. Lee peeled out showing the way followed by Kim, myself and John, each of us intent on trying to follow his line with varying success. I saw Kim quickly drop from my view, then much too quickly explode over the top of an impossibly large wave an additional fifty yards further ahead and then she was gone. She had travelled so far so fast! What speed and power this river had! The tongue started to form in front of me and then in a blink of an eye I was swept forward. I thought I was somewhat prepared for what was coming, but I was stunned as I looked down 15 feet down right into the waiting maw of the biggest wall of water I have ever seen on a river. Imagine you are blindfolded and sitting in your kayak in an unknown place or position. You can hear the roar of the water well below you so you know you are up high even though you can't see. The blindfold is then pulled off and a split second later you are hurtling uncontrolled down a giant water slide right into a 10 foot tall curling ocean wave with a huge erupting white frothy mass of confusion beyond it. Now close your eyes and picture that actually happening to you. Hopefully you get at least some sense of what I felt at that moment. I plummeted down and crashed into that wave that towered above me. Immediately I felt small and puny as I felt water slam into my chest and then the boat and I were tossed forcefully skyward like an insignificant crumb of bread. As I crested that first wave and the water cleared from my eyes I caught the briefest glimpse of the chaos that waited below for me. Ahead lay a hundred yards of similar waves each coming at me from a different direction than the one before it. I did my best to paddle hard directly into face of each monstrous swell of water that approached and somehow through a little bit of skill, a natural reaction for survival and a lot of dumb luck I exited out the bottom into the eddy on the right. Somehow I was still in my boat and upright. The Giantess had taken pity on me this time.

I remember the feeling of exultation the first time I blasted through Tablesaw on the Ocoee. I did not get that same "Yee-Haw" feeling after surviving my initial trip through Koontz Flume. Instead I was completely saturated with the sense of amazement and respect for the Titan I had just square-danced with. From this point on there was no doubt in my mind who was leading this dance and it sure wasn't me. I weakly smiled back at the colossal rapid and it grinned back like a cat that was playing with a cornered mouse. The game was definitely on!

Soon we were greeted by the amazing sight of Canyon Doors. The Giantess was stunningly beautiful as well as dangerously powerful. The sheer cliff walls started at the waterline and soared hundreds of feet up. It is easily the most breathtaking view I have ever experienced east of the Mississippi River and we had the best seats you can get. Further appreciation of this awesome visage would have to wait though as the Class IV rapids below demanded our immediate attention. Although this was also a large and powerful rapid it did not spellbind me like Koontz Flume had. A minute later we all collected in the eddy at the bottom and shared big knowing smiles. Was I starting to feel comfortable? Might I be able to hold my own on this dance floor after all? After another long appreciative look at those amazing walls from below it was time to go through the Junkyard to meet the Mash Brothers.

Upper Mash was similar to working my way through parts of the Nolichucky and the Ocoee at higher flows. I had the somewhat comfortable "been here done this before" feeling as I worked my way through the rocks and ledges. His big brother Lower Mash was nothing like him at all. Where Upper Mash was more technical, Lower Mash was pure unadulterated fury and power. This rapid had waves as big as the ones in Koontz Flume, there were more of them along with some rocks and a big hole waiting at the bottom if you didn't ferry to the right in time. The difference this time is that you could see much of the rapid from the top as you entered it. Although you knew where you wanted to go, Lower Mash was determined to make us earn our passage. I watched as Lee started forward down river left and hurtled downward into that first huge wave with Kim right behind him. Now it was my turn to do the Cha-Cha and hopefully not trip. I had some idea of what to expect from the earlier rapids, but the potent energy of this rapid was still overwhelming. Thankfully the giantess and I were starting to form a friendship built upon mutual respect and admiration and I ran the rapid as well as I could expect.

As the adventure progressed Lee led the way, stopping to give directions when needed while Kim followed in her graceful way, me struggling to survive and John bringing up the rear and steady as a rock all day. I'd like to offer my congratulations to John on being the only one of our group to complete the day with "dry hair".

Rapids flew by and blurred together with names such as Diagonal Ledges, Pearly Gates, Rollercoaster, and Upper and Lower Staircase coming to mind. Pure Screaming Hell (PSH) was coming up soon and by this point we were all looking forward to the final tango with our friend, the Giantess, and completing our seventeen mile long journey. PSH is aptly named as it is a combination of speed, power and mayhem covering quite a long ways and it required quick decisions, technical moves and powerful strokes. As PSH twirled and dipped us to and fro we followed his lead as gracefully as we could. Too soon the final dance was over and I relished the emotions I had felt throughout the day including anxiety, failure, awe, humbleness, success, joy, and finally the sadness of saying goodbye along with a determination that this trip would only be the beginning of my relationship with this powerful, beautiful and graceful Giantess.

While the Lower Gauley River is certainly a natural treasure and I am very fortunate to have had the experience of paddling it, my true blessings are the three people who chose to enjoy it with me. They are, in my opinion, the epitome of what being a paddling club member is all about and I for one am determined to pay forward that debt of gratitude that I owe to their generosity. I hope that more of the "seasoned paddlers" in our midst choose to impact the "paddling career" of newer

paddlers in this way in the years to come and experience the reward of watching their pupils succeed because they took the time make a difference in someone's life. Thank you Kim, John and Lee for making a GIANT difference in mine!

Gunny

Chase Boating

(By Teresa Gryder)

(Last month we talked about how to optimize your swimming experience when you are the swimmer. This month the topic is how to help a swimmer if you are still in your boat. A future article will examine boat-based rescues of equipment.)

Chase boating is about assisting swimmers, and recovering gear, while in your boat. Maybe this seems like old hat. We do it all the time. People swim, and we do what we can to assist them and get them to shore. We have a good idea of when it makes sense to get on shore with a rope. The swimmer is usually alert and active, and the rivers are small and easy enough that people can self rescue. Often the swimmer gets shoved somewhere that they can climb out, and the boat catches an eddy. But sometimes, just sometimes, there is reason to commit your boat to a swimmer in order to help them get where they need to be. Usually such an assist is most needed when the river has more volume and is moving fast, or when the person in the water is weak or exhausted. And in these exact situations, having already practiced the skills can make all the difference, for both of you.

The basic instructions are familiar. We know that the rescue of people is more important than recovering boats (which is why we are talking about it first). Don't risk your own welfare when trying to save someone else. Reassure a swimmer with your words and demeanor, and direct or assist them to safe passage and good landing spots. Make sure they are sane before you let them grab your boat. Communicate often and clearly, both with the swimmer, and with the other rescuers. Sometimes all you do is float along beside the swimmer until the rapid is over. Beyond that, it doesn't seem that there is much you can do. But there is more. There is always more.

We all know the baseline rule: we aren't supposed to get ourselves into any extra trouble while trying to assist a rescue. We know that we have a choice, every time, about what we will do for others. We want to help. The problem is, it's easy to get tunnel vision. It doesn't take long to get in over your head when someone really needs your help, and you had your hands full already just running the whitewater. The day will come when fate calls upon you to make a rescue. When you look around at your group, are you confident that they will be able to help when YOU get into trouble? Are you skilled enough to help others, if needed? If not, on either count, you might consider stepping down a notch and doing skill builder runs and swimming pool practice sessions. There's no rush.

One principle that will serve you well as a Chase Boater is the Carrot Principle. When someone is going for a whitewater swim, and they see you still in your boat, you are hope. You are magnetically attractive, in fact. Sometimes it even works when you are standing on shore.

One time, not that long ago, I was paddling the Toutle River for the first time, and a fellow in a yellow canoe dropped into a stout pourover and got recirculated for a while. When he popped up and saw me in an eddy, he started swimming aggressively toward me.

This would have been great, except that I had caught a microeddy immediately above a horizon line. The poor swimmer could not see that he would be swept into a pile of rocks after missing the small eddy and possibly be trapped there. The Toutle, being a river full of metal after the Mount Saint Helen's eruption, is no place to swim through rock piles.

I peeled out of my nifty corner pocket eddy and intercepted the swimmer just as he was headed into the rock pile. He grabbed my stern and swam along behind me, and we made good headway around the rocks and into a large eddy. Other people corralled his canoe in the same eddy, and it turned out all right. But I learned something that day.

When someone is swimming in a rapid, it's nice to have a spot with a good view, but it is more important to be in a location where they can see you and swim safely to you. The Carrot Principle works even if you don't let the swimmer grab your boat. Just get close enough that they think they can grab you, and then paddle toward the eddy. They will swim much better trying to grab you than they will after they have a hold on your boat.

Once you have made contact, and a swimmer is attached to your boat, you have fewer options. The options you have depend on your choice of boat. A tandem canoe can be a powerful rescue boat for a swimmer. Once when I was a child I went for a long-ish swim in the very cold Nantahala River, without a wetsuit. I had been in that cold water so long that I felt warm, and blissful! I didn't care what happened; I was hypothermic and had lost all judgment. My father and a boy were paddling a canoe, and came barreling toward and over me. In self defense I reached up and grabbed the front of the canoe, and they paddled forward and pushed me into shore. It might had been uncomfortable if they'd driven me up on a rock, but the bottom line was that they got me to shore and out of the water, and I didn't have to swim a lick. I wasn't going to rescue myself, and in the end I was grateful.

A solo canoe isn't as good for moving swimmers through the water, because one person can't move it forward as strongly. One man canoes are mainly good for retrieving paddles and shoes, or for jumping out of quickly to throw a rope. Inflatable kayaks are great for rescue boats because you can sometimes pull a second person on board with you, even in a rapid.

Most of the time kayakers serve as chase boats. A decked boat (kayak or C-1) with a low volume stern is actually quite good for transporting a swimmer, if the swimmer is able to climb up onto the stern. If the boat has handles on the rear deck, this makes it much easier to slither up on there. If there are no handles the swimmer will be grabbing the back of the cockpit, or the waist of the paddler, which works sometimes. A passenger on the back deck of a boat will want to lay low and use their legs on the water for balance. If they sit up, that drives the stern and their feet deeper into the water and impairs balance and steering of the boat.

If your boat of choice is a higher volume decked boat, it's hard for a swimmer to climb up on that fat stern. If they do manage to get up on it, their weight pushes the stern down farther, causing the bow to rear upward, and making it very hard to keep control of the boat. Usually people in larger decked boats let the swimmer grab hold, and then paddle forward, attempting

to tow them. Basically, it doesn't work at all, unless the swimmer is really swimming. If they have a good frog kick going, the team can get somewhere faster than the swimmer could alone. If the swimmer doesn't SWIM then both swimmer and chase boater are flotsam in the water.

There is one more option for assisting swimmers which is rarely seen, but worth contemplating. Especially for children, or smaller adults, having them grab the bow instead of the stern can work well. They face you, and wrap their arms and legs around the boat. You can have a conversation. If you are confident and reassuring, they will be very happy as you bulldoze them to wherever looks best. Some paddlers can roll with a small passenger clinging to either end of the boat.

The more you think about it, and play around with boats, the less traumatizing a rescue is when it actually happens. The most important role of the Chase Boater is that of providing information and reassurance. The skills of pushing, pulling, or allowing a person to ride in or on your boat with you, are worth practicing in the swimming pool or the lake, with your boating buddies or the children in your family.

“This exciting sub-sport of kayaking involves running dangerous rapids while in pursuit of or while actually towing fear-crazed victims. Born in the Southeast, chase boating began as a way to atone for leaving your rescue rope in the car.”

—William (not Bill) Nealy

**The Top Three
Commandments of Chase Boating**
by William Nealy

I. Doctrine of Extra Danger: Thou shalt not, by thy efforts, put Thyself and thy swimmer in more danger than the swimmer was in originally.

II. Doctrine of Presumed Insanity: Thou shalt never make physical contact with any swimmer until Thou has ascertained the mental state of that same swimmer.

III. Doctrine of the Supreme Ascendancy of Chase Boaters: Verily, the Chase Boater is like as a god, and the swimmer but a wretched supplicant until Him/Her. As the naughty dog fears its angry master, so shall the miscreant swimmer fear the wrath of the Chase Boater if His/Her every command is not instantly obeyed.

We still have club T-shirts that are available at a bargain price of \$15. They have a special design on the back. To reserve a shirt contact

Ian at: 865-382-5723 or nai.nosredna@gmail.com

and give them your shirt size. We will also have them at our meetings.

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	PHONE NO.	COMMENT
12/5/2014	Jason Darby	482-7357	
12/12/2014			No roll practice.
12/19/2014			No roll practice.
12/26/2014			No roll practice.
1/2/2015			No roll practice.
1/9/2015	Sam Suffern	850-8321	
1/16/2015	Rick Zingg	312-2623	
1/23/2015	Donna Price	406-1058	
1/30/2015	Ian Anderson	382-5723	
2/6/2015	Mark Bevelhimer	679-9242	
2/13/2015	Rick Zingg	312-2623	
2/20/2015	Donna Price	406-1058	
2/27/2015	Ian Anderson	382-1400	
3/6/2015	Donna Price	406-1058	
3/13/2015	Kayla Hutchinson	694-7827	
3/20/2015			No roll practice.
3/27/2015	Rick Zingg	312-2623	
4/3/2015			No roll practice.
4/10/2015			
4/17/2015			
4/24/2015	Kary Scarborough	483-7525	

Trip Reports!

Summer is over and we want to tell everyone about our adventures. Send trip reports to Bill, including videos if you have them!

Please send reports to Yours Truly at bill.lewis865@gmail.com.

And....thanks to all of my regular contributors to this publication!

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)