

# **ETWC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017**

**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

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## **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, February 21, 2017 7:30 pm**

### **Kirk Eddelmon**

will be our guest speaker. Kirk is a local product that grew up on the rivers we all enjoy. He recently published a two-volume book set that describes every runnable creek on the Cumberland Plateau and the Southern Appalachian Mountains. He has recently returned from a paddling trip to Mexico. Who knows what he'll talk about but it's bound to be entertaining and get us itching for that next trip on the river.

## **Is your PFD safe?**

That favorite PFD that has served you for years may still look great but does it still provide the flotation you need? Experts (and regulations) say that your PFD should be able to float a 15.5 lb weight. Bring your PFD to the meeting and we'll test its buoyancy.

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

## **News from the Past**

### **ETWC, Christmas Party/Meeting**

Sam Suffern hosted another great ETWC Christmas party with a succulent turkey (cooked by Sam), ham, plenty of side dishes, wonderful desserts (loved that banana pudding), good beers, soft drinks, and wine. Jackets embroidered with beautiful multicolored kayaks and the ETWC logo were the top fought over gifts in the gift exchange. The jackets figured in several “Vicious Circles”. The champagne I ended up with for New Year’s Eve was the best ever.

### **2017 ETWC Officers**

We elected our 2017 officers at the Christmas Party meeting. Our new officers include Mark Bevelhimer replacing Ian Anderson as our President, Francis Ruppel taking over the clinic, and Ian Anderson will serve as trip coordinator and replace Rick Zingg as our Roll Practice coordinator. Thanks to Ian and Rick for their many years of service in their past positions, as well as all of our officers for their hard work. Once again, we are blessed with great leadership for the club.

President, Mark Bevelhimer

Vice President, Donna Price

Secretary, Jimmy Groton

Treasurer, Kary Scarborough

Newsletter, Bill Lewis

Roll Practice, Ian Anderson

Trip Coordinator, Ian Anderson

Membership, Bill Wilder

Conservation, open

Safety, open

Kayak Clinic, Francis Ruppel

Webmaster, April Morton

### **ETWC Cash Donations**

ETWC has awarded the following donations.

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| • TCWP (Tennessee Citizen's for Wilderness Planning)      | \$200        |
| • AW (American Whitewater)                                | \$200        |
| • Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains                    | \$100        |
| • NPCA (National Parks Conservation Association)          | \$100        |
| • American Canoe Association                              | \$125        |
| • TCWN (Tennessee Clean Water Network)                    | \$100        |
| • CTC (Cumberland Trail Conference)                       | \$100        |
| • Little River Watershed Association                      | \$75         |
| • Concord UMC Scholarship Fund in memory of Ken Schneider | <u>\$200</u> |
|   | \$1200       |

## **East Tennessee Whitwater Club, protecting our rivers.**

The following is an update from last year.

If you have ever hiked down to a put in, and enjoyed one of our local rivers, it is likely that our club helped make that possible. Throughout the past 50 years our club has championed and supported numerous efforts to protect our rivers. Several of our members have served and continue to serve as board members and directors of area organizations that protect and promote our wild rivers, and our membership supports them through our volunteer efforts and by making state and local government aware of these precious resources.

We also support many of these organizations financially and this is largely where most of your dues end up (see list on previous page).

Other organizations that we encourage you to support include:

- Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains <https://friendsofthesmokies.org>
- NPCA (National Parks Conservation Association) <https://www.npca.org>
- CTC (Cumberland Trail Conference) <http://www.cumberlandtrail.org/>

In addition we are very blessed to have several active land conservancies in our area that purchase land to protect it from development, for the benefit of future generations to enjoy. Several of our members have served on these conservancies boards and our club has contributed to them over the years.

Some of these include:

The Nature Conservancy,

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/tennessee/newsroom/>

The Blue Ridge Conservancy,

[http://www.wataugademocrat.com/news/watauga-river-access-purchased-by-conservancy/article\\_7266db99-0a1b-5836-9295-927d5ee37da3.html](http://www.wataugademocrat.com/news/watauga-river-access-purchased-by-conservancy/article_7266db99-0a1b-5836-9295-927d5ee37da3.html)

The Foothills Land Conservancy, <http://foothillsland.org/areas-we-protect/>

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy,

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/explore-the-trail/explore-by-state/tennessee>

Please support these organizations along with many other organizations in our area dedicated to protecting our wilderness areas and rivers. Take a walk through the links above and you'll be surprised by all the efforts that are underway and what has been, and can be, accomplished. I know that I've left out other important area organizations and it I have please post to our forum to help us to stay informed.

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

## **Upcoming Events:**

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

The National Park Service's Obed Wild & Scenic River unit is sponsoring their Morgan County 6<sup>th</sup> Graders program for again this May. 2017 will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year for this NPS award winning program. In the program, students from all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in Morgan County go to Lilly Bridge to do rock climbing and boating. ETWC has assisted the NPS in gathering volunteers for the water portion of the program, and we are again looking for boaters. This year's program will run on weekdays between May 15 and May 22, with May 23 and 24 as potential rain dates.

Each day volunteers are needed around 8:30 to help the NPS Rangers unload boats and gear before the bus arrives at Lilly Bridge around 9 a.m. with students from one school. The students are divided into two groups, and one group goes rock climbing while the other group goes to the water program. We help the NPS Rangers fit helmets and PFDs on the students before they carry the NPS-provided boats and paddles to a pool below Lilly Bridge. The first activity is usually the popular "Critters in the Creek" program by NPS personnel that involves the students capturing and identifying the animals in Clear Creek - and thus proving how unpolluted the water is.

After the Critters program, we help put the students into the NPS boats before we get into our own boats and gear to paddle with them in the pool. We limit instruction to the minimum required for safety - the emphasis is for the students to have FUN. If time and weather permits, we let the students go for a brief swim in the upstream end of the pool. Each group is accompanied by at least one teacher who can handle any discipline issues - but we have had none.

Around noon we break for lunch, and then switch groups and repeat the activities. When we finish, the students carry the boats and paddles back up the hill before leaving to return to school around 3 p.m. We then assist the NPS Rangers in sorting and loading their equipment onto their trucks and trailer.

If you have any free time available, please consider volunteering for this activity. You will be very impressed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and teachers of Morgan County, and every session has been fun for all.

To volunteer, please call Billy Bob or Kary at 865-483-7525 or by email to [Bill\\_Scarborough@msn.com](mailto:Bill_Scarborough@msn.com).

### **Fifth Annual Obed Cleanup/Float Trip - Saturday, March 25**

The TCWP Obed cleanup is on for Saturday, March 25 assuming there is enough water and the temperature is not too cold. The structure of the event has changed a lot from previous ones. The NPS is only able to provide two rafts and drivers for two garbage rafts. We will need to provide everything else and we will need a lot of help and support from ETWC. We could probably use at least one paddle raft and someone to guide it and other boaters to help ferry trash from the bank to the garbage rafts. Here is what was in the most recent TCWP newsletter:

### Obed Trash Collection - Saturday, March 25 [Contributed by Sandra Goss, TCWP]

TCWP is working with Obed Wild and Scenic River to organize a down-river clean up trip on Obed on Saturday, March 25. The park will provide at least two oar-frame rafts with guides to transport garbage collected by the group.

Participants need to be experienced whitewater paddlers with the requisite skill to negotiate the park's streams and possessing the appropriate boats, gear and clothing necessary to do so.

Should Mother Nature not cooperate with the river trip, we will travel by car and foot to more remote river access sites and clean the trash there.

TCWP has secured a raft with a limited number of seats available for this event.

If interested in participating, please contact Sandra by Saturday, March 19 at [sandra@sandrakgoss.com](mailto:sandra@sandrakgoss.com) or at [\(865\) 583-3967](tel:8655833967).

## **Education and Interests**

### **MANNERS MATTER ON THE WATER**

By Teresa Gryder  
Updated January 6, 2016

You might hear it also called “River Etiquette”, but what I’m referring to as “manners” is the customary behavior that helps us flow smoothly down the river as a group. Unfortunately for most of us, our mothers didn’t teach us paddling. We had to figure it out how to behave on our own. If you are a new paddler, this stuff is key. If you teach new paddlers, please pass on the basics so that the new folks know what is expected of us for the good of all.

Manners in social situations are mostly about keeping everyone comfortable. If you don’t have to see someone talk with a mouthful of halfway-chewed food, or listen to a bore monopolizing the conversation, so much the better for you. On the river it’s different. On the river, manners are more like traffic laws, only there are no enforced laws on whitewater rivers. Our customs vary from river to river and crew to crew, so when you’re in a new place, ask. Still, having good awareness of each other helps facilitate flow and increases our overall safety by reducing collisions, crowding, delays, and botched moves.

Multi-day trips, commercial trips, and motorized craft bring in another level of complexity that will not be addressed here. Furthermore, and it should go without saying, all paddlers on any section are expected to know and obey the official rules of managing agencies. It may not be bad manners to skip wearing a life jacket, but it is dangerous and endangering yourself endangers those around you. For the purpose of day trips, we should have an idea of the normal traffic flow including spacing, pacing, and eddy manners. We should also maintain certain standards when it comes to group behavior.

Here are some customs designed to improve safety on day trips.

## **Boat Moving Downstream Has the Right of Way**

This is the rule that almost everyone knows. A paddler running a rapid should not have to deal with paddlers jumping in front of them, surfing, peeling out, or otherwise interfering with their intended line. Practically speaking this means you should always look upstream before you peel out into the current or slide into a surf wave. Any paddler that is playing in a wave or hole must be skilled enough to avoid oncoming paddlers or relinquish the wave or hole to avoid a collision.

This rule is especially important when the boat coming downstream is 10 times bigger than yours. A large boat cannot change course to avoid you if you happen to catch a great surf wave. Your friends, on the other hand, will want to allow you the surf and will attempt to go around you instead of making you ditch the wave. Ultimately though, it is up to you to avoid a collision. Playing chicken is a violation of this rule.

## **Spacing and Pacing**

The right amount of space between boats varies depending on the river, your group, and the individuals concerned. For safety's sake, we like our groups to be close enough together that we can respond quickly if someone needs a rescue, and far enough apart that nobody gets messed up by crowding. Complicating that effort is the fact that each individual has different requirements for personal space. Individuals who prefer a lot of space may hang back or rush out ahead to be sure they won't be crowded. We have to keep an extra eye on these people because they are often all alone. Some groups get used to paddling very closely together and weaving down the river like a tapestry. It's up to each of us to find our own strand in the weave.

Just as people have different needs for space around them, they also move at different speeds. I divide them into floaters and chargers, though of course it's more complicated than that because boats move differently too. Floaters bob downstream, making the moves that are required without working very hard. Floaters tend to get to the bottom of each rapid first, and hang out in the eddy at the bottom of each rapid until the group catches up. Chargers move faster, but typically catch eddies and make moves, causing them to drop behind. Chargers can catch up by sprinting or skipping the big eddy at the end of the rapid.

Disparities in pacing can cause conflict within a group. Floaters often overtake chargers who are playing their way through the rapid, and a miscalculation can cause boats to get bunched up right at the crux of a rapid. The solution for this challenge is broad awareness on the part of every paddler. Keep an eye on all the boats around you, not just the one you are behind. If you are a floater, look behind you regularly. If there is a pack of boats right behind you, take a few strokes forward to make some room. If you are a charger, be willing to sit an extra moment in the eddy so you don't upset anyone's apple cart by making moves too close to them.

One place where pace really matters is at the pinch points of the run. Put-ins, scouts, portages, and take-outs can cause massive slowdowns because only one or two boats can move through at a time. When it is your turn to move through the pinch point, be efficient, but also be careful, because a fall or a dropped boat during a sketchy climb can ruin everyone's day. Don't crowd another person who is trying to climb past a difficult spot: give them the time they need to do it right. Teamwork in moving boats, roping stuff up and down cliffs, and setting up seal launches can make everyone's day more pleasant.

Hard rapids are another possible pinch point. If a rapid has a bad hole or other significant challenges, only one boat at a time should attempt it. Wait for a sign or signal that the coast is clear before committing to a blind drop.

## **Eddy Manners**

We practice catching eddies at the top, however if someone is already in the eddy you are catching, it is good manners to catch it below them and wait your turn to peel out. Even if there is space for a boat upstream from them, if they are moving up the eddy, you should hit it below them. If there is room for one boat beside them *and* behind them, you still catch it behind them, so that they can continue to the top without having to wait for you to peel out first. This “flight pattern” allows a smooth flow of paddlers into and out of the eddy, and orderly entrance to play waves and holes.

It is fair game to take turns when entering a feature from opposite sides of the channel, and to use hand or head signals to let the other paddlers know when you are going or when you relinquish your turn to someone else.

If you are not playing, you should get out of the “flight pattern” of boaters who are queuing up to play. Be ready to peel out when you get to the top, and head for a less crowded eddy. If you are playing, you should keep your place in the queue and be ready to go when you reach the top of the eddy.

Anyone who is about to leave an eddy should look upstream and all around before venturing into the current. This 360 degree awareness is important. When you are in an eddy and coming out of it, it is your job to see every moving boat in your area and avoid interfering with boats that are in or about to enter the current.

A finer point of eddy manners has to do with small eddies. When you hear someone talking about creek manners, usually they are talking about how we behave in and around small eddies. On a creek, the last eddy before a major rapid may hold only one or two boats. If you can't catch it when you need to, the consequences can be severe. Good creek manners dictate that you remain conscious of others who may need to catch the same eddy as you, and make room for them. This may mean moving away from the eddy line so they can catch it right next to you, or quickly climbing out of your boat and onto shore to start a portage or scout. If there's a hazard downstream you might even position yourself to catch incoming boats. You can also make room for incoming paddlers by peeling out. A particularly elegant way to time your peel out is to exit at the same moment that they are coming into the eddy just below you. This eddy exchange requires accurate timing, and resembles a dance. The bottom line is that we make room for incoming paddlers when there is a good reason to want to stop.

Another aspect of Eddy or Creek Manners is Boof Manners. Boofing is fun, however it is not OK to boof over a rock when there is someone behind it that you might land on. I like to do S-turns in small eddies, and I have had boaters charging at me and threatening to behead me with their boats. If you are a boof maniac and you kill me, I will haunt you. Abort the boof if there is someone in the eddy. If you figure out that you are the one in the eddy behind a good boof, move along and let them have their fun.

## **Group Manners**

Lots of people have written about appropriate behavior for groups on the water. Most basically you are supposed to stay together with your group, and to keep your entire group together as a unit. When your group is slow and another group approaches from behind, they will appreciate it when you pull over and let them go by. Likewise when you are moving faster than another group, you can pass, but wait until you have your whole group close together so you can all pass quickly.

Paddling past fishermen is somewhat more complicated as they may, depending on the run, consider you to be an intruder without rights. Always give them a wide berth. Be friendly if it is reciprocated, and be quiet if it is not. At the very least avoid their lines and avoid the eddy-lines or eddies that they are actively fishing. Paddling down the far shore works in most cases, but sometimes you will have to pass underneath a line.

Some paddling groups are particularly loud, and noise carries on the water. Homeowners, fishermen and wildlife may not appreciate your cheers and jeers. They may be in their quiet place where nothing but rippling water and the call of a hawk is welcome. Please be mindful of who might be hearing your ruckus and adjust your volume accordingly.

### **Boat Control**

Maintain control of your craft. If you are colliding with other boats, you are not minding your manners very well. If you do as I did and go barreling into an eddy and spear one of your good friends in the kidney, you will be very sorry that you didn't handle your boat's momentum more accurately. You and your boat add up to a heavy projectile, so take care, and keep it under control.

### **Manage Your Own Equipment**

Your kit is your responsibility, and other people's kits are theirs. Keep your gear in good condition so that you don't become a liability. Also, carry basic safety gear so that you can assist others. Don't move, adjust or borrow another person's gear without asking permission. If you do move or adjust something, adjust it back when you are done.

### **Manners Is a Matter of Awareness**

River etiquette is based on being broadly aware of what's going on with your group and around you. Keeping the river clean; wildlife calm; pinch points flowing; homeowners, wildlife and fishermen happy; and boats flowing downstream is easy when you are all working toward this same goal. Being alert and courteous helps you to notice situations about to happen and make room for better outcomes. Manners help us to prevent collisions, bad runs, and other accidents. With no cost and considerable reward, you can hold your teacup with pinkie held high, and you can hit the eddies below boaters who are already there.

## ETWC 2016 Cash Flow Report

Fiscal Year = 1/1/16 through 12/31/16

Checking Account as of 12/31/15     \$1,770.68

**Income:**

Clinic Income	\$1,005.00
Book Auction	15.00
Dues	667.42
Roll Practice Income	540.00
T-shirts Income	15.00

**Total Income     \$2242.42**

**Expenses:**

Clinic Expenses	\$ 254.79
Room Rental, Clinic Expense	25.00
Roll Practice Pool Rental	787.50
Donations	1,000.00
Ken Schneider Memorial Fund	200.00
Corporate Non-Profit Fee	20.00
P.O. Box Rental	102.00
Christmas Party	130.37
Web Hosting, Domain Name, Privacy (5 years)	549.84
Bank Service Charges	3.75

**Total Expenses     \$ 3,073.25**

**Difference in Income/Expense     \$ - 830.83**

**Transfer to Savings (8-11-16)     \$1,000.00**

**Transfer to Checking (12-31-16)     \$450.00**

**Checking Account as of 12/31/16     \$389.85**

**Savings Account as of 12/31/16     \$7,559.13**

**Total Assets as of 12/31/16     \$7,948.98**

***Thank You Kary for keeping up with all of our finances once again!***

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

Winter roll practice in the nice warm pool is the perfect place to develop skills or perfect that roll. Don't wait until spring! Guests are welcome; you don't have to be a club member.

Roll practice cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for 18 and under and is used to pay the pool rental.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
2/17/2017	Sam Suffern
2/24/2017	Donna Price
3/3/2017	Rick Zingg
3/10/2017	Chuck Estes
3/17/2017	Ian Anderson
3/24/2017	Ian Anderson
3/31/2017	Rick Zingg
4/7/2017	Ian Anderson
4/14/2017	No Roll Practice (Good Friday)
4/21/2017	Ann Bevelhimer
4/28/2017	Kary Scarborough

### **ETWC Webpage and Forum**

April Morton has been updating the webpage lately and it is a work in progress. Contact April if you have any suggestions for improvements or pictures to share

Check out the discussions on our forum:

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

### **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.

## 2017 ETWC OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Mark Bevelhimer	865-679-9242	<a href="mailto:mbevelhimer@gmail.com">mbevelhimer@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>	Ian Anderson	865-382-5723	<a href="mailto:nai.nosredna@gmail.com">nai.nosredna@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trip Coordinator</b>	Ian Anderson	865-382-5723	<a href="mailto:nai.nosredna@gmail.com">nai.nosredna@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Bill Wilder	865-603-7984	<a href="mailto:NBWilder@att.net">NBWilder@att.net</a>
<b>Conservation</b>	Need Volunteer		
<b>Safety</b>	Need Volunteer		
<b>Kayak Clinic</b>	Francis Ruppel	865-694-3118	<a href="mailto:fruppel@knology.net">fruppel@knology.net</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\*\*](#)

