



ETWC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012

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 were due 12/31!

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:

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

Club Meeting

(All Members Welcome)

Paul Akers and Barbara Reeves are giving a presentation on their recent Appalachian Trail journey.

The Craft Room
Oak Ridge Civic Center
Tuesday
March 20, 2012
7:30 pm

OFFICERS FOR 2012

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Webmaster	Woody Austin	865-483-3049	rapidsnow@gmail.com

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:

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - 7TH OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Editor: Bill Lewis
 Phone: 865-777-5276 Email: wclewis@tds.net
 Photos in jpeg, gif, or bmp format.
 Reports and Classifieds as a Word or Text File Document.
 Newsletter is available in PDF Format-contact the editor for information.

Check out our website at <http://www.etwcweb.com>

River Gauges by Telephone

(800) 261-5033 - Big South Fork	(865) 632-2264 - TVA Lake and Rivers Gauge
(800) 899-4435 - Big Pigeon	(Knoxville)
(800) 232-7238 - Chattooga River	(865) 751-2264 - TVA Lake and Rivers Gauge
(800) 829-5253 - Green River	(Chattanooga)
(800) 238-2264 - TVA Lake and Rivers Gauge (Out of Town)	

**East Tennessee Whitewater Club
Club Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2012**

Presentation: The meeting began with a presentation by John Krusenklau, a physical therapist at the Tennessee Sports Medicine Group in Knoxville. He spoke about his recommendations for ways to stay healthy and prevent injuries to our muscles, tendons, and ligaments. He emphasized a combination of exercise to build and maintain strength, stretching and exercises such as yoga or Pilates to maintain flexibility, staying hydrated, and diet to maintain optimal health. He handed out three handouts about hydration, dietary supplements to maintain healthy joints, and dietary recommendations to reduce and prevent inflammation in our joints and muscles.



ETWC VP Paul Wolf with John Krusenklau Tn sports medicine group

Treasurer's Report: Kary reported that we have \$330.52 in our checking account and \$6,103.80 in our savings account. She estimated that we netted about \$1700 from the clinic. Dues are way up. We are pretty much breaking even on money from roll practice. We received \$556 from Pint Night.

ETWC 50th Anniversary: There was discussion about how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the club. If you have historical information on the founding of our club or the early years of the club, please let us know.

Swiftwater Rescue Clinic: It was reported that Jay plans to conduct a two-day swiftwater rescue clinic later in the spring. The event would take place on a nearby river. He plans to come to the March ETWC meeting to talk about the event and recruit volunteers. We may consider opening the clinic to Chota members.

SWIFT WATER RESCUE

Jay Wright, our ETWC safety director is testing the waters (pun intended) to see if there is interest in a full two day SWR class. We still need a few more to reach the minimum class size.

Tentatively, the plan is:

Dates: May 5 & 6

Time: 8am to 5 pm

Location: Nemo (water dependant)

Class Format: Morning sessions will be land based training; afternoon sessions will be in the water practicing swift water skills.

If you are interested in taking the class, or can help instruct, contact Jay at: (931)265-9503 or jwright0627@yahoo.com

American Whitewater News

Nantahala Hydropower License Extended!

AW reports that “the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a [new 30 year license](#) for the Nantahala Hydroelectric Project in Western North Carolina. The new license confirms many elements of a 2003 collaborative settlement agreement developed by Duke Energy, American Whitewater, state and federal resource agencies, and many other stakeholders. Included in the new license are flow releases that treat over 250,000 people each year to whitewater paddling on the Nantahala River, and form the backbone of the local economy.”

See: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/31300/>

Obed River Clean-up Saturday May 19

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Ranger Station at 8:30 am. Gloves, insect repellent, sun block and sturdy shoes are recommended. Moria Painter is the NPS contact

Following the clean-up, participants are invited to the Obed Visitor Center around noon for a free volunteer appreciation lunch. Hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, chips, cookies, and lemonade were provided last year. Former volunteers were also welcomed to the lunch.

For more information or if you desire to participate in this year's event, call the park at (423) 346-6294.

For photos as well as reports from ETWC members from last year's clean-up, go to:

(<http://www.nps.gov/obed/playourvisit/river-cleanup.htm>)

Winter Roll Practice Friday Nights, Oak Ridge Civic Center

Remember roll practice on Friday!



DATE	COORDINATOR	COMMENT
3/16/2012	Rick Zingg	
3/23/2012	Kayla Hutchison	
3/30/2012	Jason Darby	
4/6/2012		No roll practice.
4/13/2012	John Wisinger	
4/20/2012	Rick Zingg	
4/27/2012	Jason Darby	
5/4/2012	Kayla Hutchison	
5/11/2012	Kary Scarborough	

Trip Reports!

For you creative writers out there:

Please send reports to Yours Truly at wclewis@tds.net.

PROGRAMS

We are always looking for interesting programs for our meetings. If you have a program or an idea please contact Paul Wolf at:

leonjeronimo@gmail.com or 865-789-2826.

ETWC 50th Anniversary

ETWC continues to collect historical information about the club. An excellent compilation by Paul Dutky from 1988 is included below. If you have historical information about the club, please post to the forum or in a reply to yours truly and I'll pass it along.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EAST TENNESSEE WHITE WATER CLUB

Compiled by Paul Dutky in 1988

Conflicting opinion has always existed in ETWC, and many of our current members delight in debate. When I became President in December, I set out to learn all I could of the different points of view held by our membership. Believing as I do, that a knowledge of the past would help me to understand the present, I read every existing club newsletter and interviewed several past Presidents to develop a feel for how the club has evolved

The East Tennessee Whitewater Club has been around for twenty-five years—since the early 60s. When John Bombay arrived in Oak Ridge he brought with him a fiberglass kayak—the first kayak most Oak Ridgers had ever seen. The interest generated by that first decked boat resulted in the construction of a fiberglass kayak mold and over 40 fiberglass clones of John's boat. A small informal group began to meet which called themselves the East Tennessee White Water Club (the term "White Water" was a club innovation because the word "whitewater" had not yet been coined). The ETWWC preceded the formation of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA), Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), Tennessee Valley Canoe Club (TVCC), and Chota Canoe Club by many years. Equipped with Bombay kayaks, non-offset kayak paddles, and US Geological Survey maps, club members set out to discover East Tennessee whitewater. What they found was a network of truly fine navigable rivers in their own backyard on the Cumberland Plateau.

Jerry Cosgrove soon began to accompany the kayakers downstream in a keeled Grumman aluminum canoe, the first canoeist to do so. And soon after Tom Berg joined in paddling a flat "shoe" keeled Grumman. With canoes came super 8 photography and pictures to pass around back in town. The plateau canyons were magnificent, and their sandy beaches devoid of people. Whitewater craft became vehicles with which to escape into the wilderness. At that time there was no vandalism of cars or trucks, even during the occasional two day expedition. The Obed-Emory watershed began to be thought of as a private resource. An almost secretive possessive attitude about the plateau soon evolved.

There were lots of people working at Union Carbide and living in Oak Ridge eager to get in on a good thing—and it wasn't too long before a massive club expansion began to take form. Most new members to the club could relate to canoeing easier than kayaking, and the demand for canoes skyrocketed. In 1968 Tom Berg proclaimed, "the best canoe and the equipment most suitable for these waters" was the shoe keeled Grumman aluminum canoe. In 1968 and 1969, easily 50 of these canoes were purchased at an average cost of \$250 apiece and \$4.25 per paddle. The need for a delivery location for batch shipments of twenty canoes was the initial incentive for the establishment of the Carbide Canoe Club.

Officially, ETWWC and CCC had two sets of officers, although in reality they functioned as one entity. This dualism had several advantages. Carbide had a policy of financially supporting recreational groups within the company to the tune of \$100 a year. With Carbide help. Club newsletters could be produced using Carbide resources (not an easy task in the pre-copy center era!) and distributed through the company in-house mail system for free. The Carbide affiliation also permitted purchase of whitewater equipment at commercial discount rates . . . and the storage of batch shipped canoes in large warehouse areas.

With the influx of novice whitewater enthusiasts, the club's core of knowledgeable boaters spearheaded programs to school the new paddlers in river safety and paddling technique. It's easy to see how the club came by the first two of its Aims: "the promotion of canoeing and kayaking as a sport" and "the teaching of boating techniques and water safety". An early newsletter refers to the "continuing losses of canoes on the Obed River" and pleas to paddle with an experienced club member and to practice safe boating. The momentary broach of an aluminum canoe could result in a crumpled unrestorable heap of scrap metal rather quickly as the open canoe filled with water and washed against obstructions in the river bed. The appearance of the third club Aim, "the preservation of our remaining wilderness rivers", appears in the club newsletter in 1968, at about the same time TVA proposed to dam the Obed river and build the Tellico dam.

Reality struck, and a concerted effort had to be made to loudly proclaim the value of the Obed-Emory watershed as a recreational resource. A pretense of secretiveness would not help save the Obed. The TCWP proved instrumental in quashing the Obed dam proposal, but ETWWC shares some of the credit. A large amount of time and energy was expended by club members in charting these streams, their put-ins, take-outs and quality. Eventually this information, collected by club members (especially ETWWC's Jerry Cosgrove who, like clockwork, paddled every weekend), resulted in the publication of several pamphlets and a canoeing guide to the Obed system and the Cumberland Plateau. When home movie equipment became available in the late 60s, member John Landry filmed representative sections of the plateau and shared it with other eastern whitewater clubs. The ETWWC subsequently acted as hosts for visiting clubs to explore the plateau. The Obed-Emory watershed and neighboring rivers had been put on the whitewater map, and the way was paved for the successful fight to include these rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers bill.

I think the vandalizing of unguarded vehicles on the plateau was a spin-off of the bruhaha over whether the Obed should be dammed or preserved as a recreational resource. The area's local inhabitants undoubtedly thought that the sparsely settled plateau should be left just as it was before the invasion of environmental protection freaks and the economic development freaks. They began to deftly communicate their *own* possessive attitude about the plateau by making visitors unwelcome.

* * * * *

It amazes me that the ETWWC started as a decked boat club and essentially remained that way, instead of first adopting the more traditional open canoe and then slowly, as Chota had done, come to accept the kayak as their preferred whitewater conveyance. But even though

ETWWC's decked boaters often paddled water well above the capabilities of the open canoeists, in today's terms that meant only class three whitewater. No one had an Eskimo roll—that was a skill reserved for master kayakers. A flip usually meant a swim. There was no playing; the objective was to simply get down the river. They were very cautious, setting up ropes at all major rapids and sending only one boat through a rapid at a time. These were pioneers pushing their limits, paddling for their lives.

Innovation in those early years of whitewater sport was (and still is) rampant. Although thigh straps were used in canoes almost from the beginning, foam C-1 saddles and boat mounted knee pads did not evolve until the early 70s. In 1969 Tom Berg purchased the club's first decked C-1, an imported Czechoslovakian design. This sleek new river machine was more maneuverable and wave proof than the Grummans, and prompted a whole new era of boat building. Tom's C-1 was only the first of many "new and improved" models to fall into club hands.

Boat building determined one of the basic organizational units of the club until just recently—the boat building group. Each group consisted of six to eight club members who pooled their resources to purchase enough fiberglass equipment to make six to eight boats. Several weeks of team effort were needed to crank out, one at a time, eight boats and perform finishing touches on each one. The ante needed to join a group was the cost of fiberglass materials, about \$55.

A fiberglass boat was the ticket to "hair" paddling, but it wasn't easy to get into a boat building group. If one group filled up, you had to recruit five or six other people to join you in forming a new group—some of whom had to know how to lay up a kayak. And the mold wasn't available to just anyone, it was very carefully kept under lock and key. There was no hesitation pirating boat designs, but a low-grade paranoia kept the process under wraps. Reid Gryder, by the way, still has the original mold of Tom Berg's original C-1.

Once a group was formed, boat building became a communal task imbued with all the enthusiasm and mutual support of a barn raising. Teamwork was essential with 13 feet of fiberglass slowly and irrevocably setting up; once resin was mixed and the first layer of fiberglass cloth applied to the mold, the laying up process had to be carried through to completion. For many years the nerve center of all this activity took place in the basement of Dick and Phyllis Read's house. Dick was a founding father of the club, the first president, and the driving force behind the club's mold and boat building efforts. Dick maintained the club's large stores of fiberglassing materials in his basement, and tolerated the invasion of his home by club members at strange hours day and night.

New kayak and C-1 designs, in all their evolving shapes and volumes, kept the boat builders busy keeping up with the Joneses. The process of cloning a kayak begins with rubbing a hard wax onto the thoroughly clean, smooth boat. A soft wax is then applied and a polyvinyl "parting" film applied to the soft wax. A heavy duty mold is then created of the upper and lower halves of the boat by layering resin soaked fiberglass cloth carefully onto the original hull. Just enough resin is applied with each fiberglass layer, and not too much. The resin has to have just the right amount of hardener, and the boat allowed to cure at just the right temperature. If the initial wax job was applied well, the newly hardened fiberglass and the boat hull separate leaving a glistening smooth chrysalis from which innumerable future kayaks, identical to the first, can be manufactured.

Boat building must have been, indirectly, a major social activity of the club. Along with the uncommon boating expertise rapidly developing within club ranks, the know how to create kayaks must have strengthened the club and broadened its drawing power within the paddling community. Testimony to this was a club census that showed that half of all boats owned by club members were made by club members, and that meetings during the early 70s often filled the First Presbyterian Church meeting hall.

Since the widespread availability of plastic boats beginning in 1981 and 1982, boat building as a club activity has disappeared. Even now that fiberglass boats are coming back into vogue (because the now remarkably good skill level of paddlers is creating a demand for increasingly sophisticated boat designs) building groups are unlikely to be seen again because of the excellent, widely available commercial products on the market. The art of clandestine mold making and boat cloning is seldom practiced. The large club stockpiles of fiberglass cloth, and bottles of epoxy and polyester resins are things of the past.

* * * * *

Part of the urge to build better and faster boats stemmed from a developing interest in racing. The club's golden age of racing spanned the years 1970 to 1975—beginning before the 1972 Munich Olympics showcased whitewater paddling to the world, and ending as paddling skill levels and interest in whitewater were burgeoning across the U.S. During this period several ETWWC members were nationally ranked in wildwater competition, ETWWC paddlers were featured on the covers of several national magazines, and the club became sponsor of the Tellico races, the first leg of the Southern Cup circuit.

The club's interest in racing may have begun in 1970 when Reid Gryder accompanied Jerry Cosgrove to the 7th Annual White Water Weekend in Petersburg, West Virginia—the first, and at that time the most southern, whitewater race of the season. In those days no one trained for competitions—canoe and kayak racing was an amateur sport in its infancy. Although he flipped once and had to empty his boat along the bank during the 12 mile C-1 wildwater competition, Reid unexpectedly placed second. The following year he demolished the competition and placed 1st. Reid attributes his success to winter paddling; whereas competitors from further North had been ice bound all winter, he was able to stay in shape.

The budding interest in whitewater racing bloomed when the club attracted several strong young paddlers to the Spring beginner's clinic in 1970 and 71. Scouts Kenny Cooper and Marc Hall joined the club and became excellent paddlers—often placing first or second in regional competition. Ken was the first to build kayaks specifically for racing. Mark Hall (later a club President) competed in the 1976 (?) wildwater C-1 competition in Yugoslavia. The Singley brothers, Paul and Alan, became nationally ranked about the same time the scouts did. Paul raced K-1, and mixed C-2 with his future wife at the U.S. team trials. Brother Alan developed a reputation as a wild man—paddling the upper Nantahala (and anything else) and showing off his no hands, no paddle C-1 roll. Martin Begun made a national impression when photographed paddling off the edge of 17 foot Potters Falls on the Crooked Ford outside Wartburg. In addition to pioneering waterfall jumping Martin was nationally ranked #1 in C-1 wildwater in 1975. Reid and Monte Meals, although never competition fanatics, continued to place in races.

The developing expertise and conditioning in the club, and improved equipment, soon pushed back the limits of what was possible in whitewater to Class 4, and then Class 5. A 1972 newsletter mentions a lake session with Don Jared who was teaching the Eskimo roll and how to “deck” Grumman canoes to make them more whitewater worthy. Whitewater sport was maturing in East Tennessee, an everywhere else. This came as a rude awakening to Reid Gryder who in 1975 again completed the Petersburg downriver. This time he was passed by a 14 year old in mid course. As Reid tells it, the C-1 paddler, Kent Ford stopped to lend another boater some duct tape, allowing Reid to momentarily pull ahead. Kent than stashed the tape back in his boat, pulled his spray skirt on, and effortlessly stroked back in the lead.

Newsletters at the time are 2/3rds race reports, and announcements of upcoming competitions and gate training sessions. A statement in a 1973 newsletter disavows any club

responsibility for organizing trips, “member have an obligation to organize their own trips”. The club’s obligation in 1973 was felt to reside in teaching beginners how to run gates for slalom competition. With enthusiasm for racing firmly entrenched by the success of many club members, ETWWC filed for and became official sponsors of the Tellico downriver race. The 1975 Tellico downriver was a booming success with the entire club participating in running the race. Reid Gryder and Monte Meals were the race coordinators, Margo Stone was in charge of judging, and Don Jared directed communications. The race results revealed some new names in the winner’s column: Payson Kennedy, Bunny Johns, and Les Bechdel, all from the recently established Nantahala Outdoor Center.

A new status quo was evolving in the whitewater community. The NOC was rapidly becoming a training ground for “semi-professional” competitive paddlers who trained year round in North Carolina, and made a living teaching whitewater skills. Simultaneously, the young successful racers in the ETWWC were growing up or moving elsewhere. By the late 70s, racing was well past its prime in the club, and was not generating enough steam to keep a critical mass of member involved in the process. Efforts to run the 1981 Tellico races resulted in confusion due to the collective inexperience of the members who were coordinating it. Non-members had to be recruited to help set gates and plan the race course. By that time, the NOC had completely supplanted ETWWC as the regional leader in whitewater racing and instruction. And the Tellico, being unpredictable in its water flow and having forced cancellation of the Southern Cup race on several previous occasions, was replaced by the lively and reliable Ocoee. By 1982, the year I arrived in East TN, racing as a club activity was dead.

A shift in club leadership and direction came about in 1982 to fill a void. Racing interest was not killed off, it had died an honorable and natural death. The ten years of emphasis on decked “hair” boating and racing that core members of the club took pride in resulted in attracting a narrower segment of the paddling community than had the care-free exploration that served as the club’s original mandate. When two Presidents in the same year moved out of town, one of whom was blue blood racer Marc Hall, the club was left rudderless. The average length of the newsletter dropped to just one page and meeting attendance dropped precipitously. More domestic attitudes began to prevail. Sam Suffern took the helm in 1983 and drew up the club’s first activity and club-organized trip schedule in years. He filled a real need by establishing a paddling information relay station through his home answering machine to encourage pickup and scheduled club trips. Cynthia Soumoff restructured the newsletter into the current magazine format, and shortly after, the first fork and knife wielding “BRING COOKIES” pig was gracing its title page. The club as we now know it was born.

* * * * *

It’s interesting to look at those things that have remained the same and those that have changed in 25 years of club history. Members still meet at Hilltop at 8 AM many Saturday mornings to run the Plateau. The club still holds meetings at Fellowship Hall, and still struggles to fill all of its executive officer positions, just as it always has. We continue to invest ourselves in the stated Aims of the club: the teaching of boating techniques and water safety through workshops, clinics, pool and lake sessions, the promotion of canoe and kayaking as a sport, and the conservation of our wilderness heritage.

A recurrent theme in the newsletter has been the cajoling and cries for more active member participation in conservation issues. (I personally see this as wasted effort. The club only has an obligation in inform its members about conservation issues. If the process of informing interests stimulates participation, wonderful. If not, so be it.) But we can comfortably let the record speak for itself: ETWWC participated in the successful fight against the proposed Obed dam, the

successful effort to include the Obed and tributaries in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the successful landmark 1973 lawsuit (along with TCWP) to force the state to enforce enacted strip mining legislation to protect water quality, and the successful fight to save the Ocoee. The club continues to give strong input into regulation and development of the Ocoee, and, I can now add, the fight to save the Pigeon.

What we've lost has been the novelty and adventure of participating in the dawning of a new sport. Whitewater rafting and river running are now highly publicized and advertised—a sport of the masses. Club members no longer confront the geographic unknown—the frontier has been conquered. Boat design is now in the realm of experts. New boats of exceptional quality are now mass produced—communal building projects are extinct. Whitewater instruction has in great part been institutionalized, and racing has become a pastime of semiprofessional instructor/athletes. In recent years the regional preeminence ETWWC had in the area of decked boat instruction and hair paddling had evaporated. Activities such as boat building, exploration, and racing no longer draw paddlers from Knoxville, Morristown, and Marysville to our meetings. Chota, our large urban neighbor to the East, now has as many decked boat paddlers as open boaters, gives decked boat instruction and sponsors trips on Class IV and Class V whitewater, just as we do.

It is nostalgic to look back on our losses, but it is really *change* we have experienced, not “loss”. Any preeminence our Club might have possessed in decked boat paddling skills has faded because the average paddler's skill level is so extraordinarily good by the standards of only a few years ago. This is not regression, this represents club success of the highest order! Summertime access to the Ocoee has given Southeastern paddlers the opportunity to paddle challenging whitewater year round. We are no longer pioneers, but we are no longer trying to survive Class III whitewater either. Many paddlers are now able to *play* on Class IV whitewater. Whereas before the geographic unknown was next door, now average paddlers have the ability to enjoy an impressively wide range of whitewater anywhere in the world—the Grand Canyon, Costa Rica, Chile, Nepal, New Zealand.

Boats are now often changed as readily as a suit of clothes. You keep the ones that feel good and look good, and trade in the others. Resale value is high because compared to ten years ago, plastic, fiberlatic and S-glass kevlar boats are indestructible. How much time do you spend patching your boat now-a-days? The maneuverability and performance of the newer kayak designs contrasts with those ten years ago like a DC-3 to a Lear jet.

The nature of the club's activities and interests have always reflected the needs and desires of our membership, and still do. Our choices have been conscious ones; we voted to sponsor races and later to abandon that sponsorship, the club has chosen to schedule club trips, then chose not to, and then changed direction again. Strong leaders have come along and helped move the club in different directions—but no one individual has dominated. As our membership has changed, so too had the character of the club. Despite change, we have always enjoyed the camaraderie of paddling together, teaching together, learning together, and sharing good times with one another.

For my part, the friendships I've developed and the experiences I've shared with you during my six years in East Tennessee have been the highlight of my stay here. This brief summary of our heritage is my going away present to the club. I want to thank you all for your support and your friendship.

Paul Dutky

**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)