

ETWC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

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

Club Meeting

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 9, so save the date.

Dues are due!

Send Kary your \$15 check payable to ETWC along with the membership form at the end of this newsletter to the address on the form, or go to our web site at: <http://etwcweb.com/membership/> and you can pay online.

Also, if you are an American Whitewater member, or would like to be, you can join or renew your membership at: <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/join-aw/>

We are an AW affiliate club; so you're annual membership is only \$25.

2019 ETWC Officers

We elected our 2019 officers at the Christmas Party meeting. Thanks all of our 2018 officers for their hard work, including our outgoing Trip Coordinator Ian Anderson and our Vice President Donna Price who moves to Membership. Once again, we are blessed with great leadership for the club.

President, Mark Bevelhimer
Vice President, Darren Price
Secretary, Pat Zingg
Treasurer, Kary Scarborough
Newsletter, Bill Lewis
Kayak Clinic, Francis Ruppel
Webmaster, April Morton
Membership, Donna Price
Safety, Christian Balz

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Trip Coordinator, Roll Practice, and Conservation. Please contact any of our officers if you can serve in these roles.

Upcoming Events:

Volunteers needed for the Morgan County 6th Graders Program

The National Park Service's Obed Wild & Scenic River unit is again sponsoring their Morgan County 6th Graders program this May. The program was the subject of the last ETWC meeting, and was presented by NPS Ranger Veronica Greear. This will be the 8th year for this award winning NPS program. In the program, students from each of the 6th 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 13 and May 22, with May 22 as a potential rain date.

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 aquatic life 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 can spare a day or more, please consider volunteering for this activity. You will be very impressed by the 6th 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 (leave a message on the answering machine) or by email to Bill_Scarborough@msn.com .

ETWC Kayaking Clinic:

Francis Ruppel has already started preparing for this year's Kayaking Clinic. As in the past it will be the first week of June (3rd - 8th). Francis has started getting volunteers for instructors and assistants as well as equipment loans from our members. If you can help out or have equipment to loan to our beginners text Francis at 865-332-7725 or email at fruppel@knology.net.

Obed Wild and Scenic River Clean-up March 30.

ETWC has supported the NPS with their Obed River Cleanup for many years and this year's event is coming up on Saturday March 30. We hope to have a good turnout this year. If you've not participated before and would like to join in meet at the ranger station. , check the forum or post to see whose going and when. The NPS announcement follows:

Obed Wild and Scenic River News Release

Contact: Matt Hudson, matt_hudson@nps.gov, (423) 346-6294

Veronica Greear, veronica_greear@nps.gov, (423) 346-6294

Annual Obed WSR River Cleanup Set for March 30

WARTBURG, Tennessee: On Saturday, March 30th, the Obed Wild and Scenic River and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning are working together to host a river-based cleanup of the section of the Obed River between the Devil's Breakfast Table and Nemo. This eleven mile section of stream is one of the most dramatic in the entire park, featuring towering cliffs and a sense of remoteness rarely found in today's world. Experienced whitewater paddlers are welcome to join in the cleanup but must provide their own whitewater boat, personal floatation device, helmet and appropriate river attire. **Paddlers should be highly proficient in Class III/IV whitewater.**

Individuals wishing to assist with the cleanup should meet at the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center located at 208 North Maiden Street in Wartburg, Tennessee, at 9 a.m. (ET) on March 30th. Participants should be prepared to use their own vehicles to shuttle to the take-out point at Nemo and drive to the put-in location at the Devil's Breakfast Table. The river trip is subject to cancellation due to weather and river levels. Although rapidly changing conditions could necessitate cancelling the river trip on the morning of the event, a tentative go-no-go decision will be made by 4 p.m. on the afternoon of Friday, March 29th. If the river trip is cancelled, a land-based cleanup will take place near Nemo Day Use Area. Participants can obtain status updates via the park's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ObedNPS . For more information, please contact the park at (423) 346-6294.

www.nps.gov

**You may recognize some of last year's Obed clean-up crew
Thanks guys!**



Cheers to Clean Water

We approved a request to be a sponsor for the Clean Water Tennessee River Paddle Off on June 9, 2019 from 1-4pm at Suttree Landing Park in Knoxville. an event showcasing the ways that we can help to protect our local streams and rivers with green infrastructure! Our \$250 donation entitles us to our Logo being included in event publications, and entry in the River Race/Float. It sounds like a great opportunity to show off what a whitewater boat can do. All proceeds go to support Tennessee Storm Water Association.

Obed Chief Ranger Matt Hudson recognized

If you've paddled any of the Obed WSR streams, or climbed the river side cliffs, or visited the visitor center in Wartburg, odds are you've crossed paths with Obed WSR Chief Ranger Matt Hudson. In fact ETWC has worked with Matt and his staff on several initiatives and activities over the years. Matt was recognized in the National Parks Magazine by the National Parks Conservation Association. The following is an excerpt.

<https://www.npca.org/articles/2019-the-ranger-project>

A Wish To Live Deliberately

Matt Hudson
Obed Wild and Scenic River, Tennessee



Matt Hudson © SIMON GRIFFITHS

Matt Hudson is climbing — maybe better described as hanging — from a massive horizontal shelf of East Tennessee sandstone some 50 feet above a cluster of sixth-graders. The students crane their necks as they follow his Spiderman-like movements up the sheer rock face and out underneath it. Below the group, the rushing Clear Creek works its way through a deep gorge carved into this hemlock forest on the Cumberland Plateau.

“Ready?” Hudson asks of his belayer. “Falling.” And fall he does, releasing his hold on the rock and dropping toward the group of wide-eyed middle schoolers. The rope Hudson is attached to stretches out until it’s taut, suspending him, as he bounces lightly, about 10 feet above the heads of his incredulous audience. He has their attention.

As a boy in central Tennessee, Hudson remembers looking east and gazing at the Cumberland Plateau. “My heart has always been on the Plateau,” he says. An admittedly poor high school student, Hudson collected himself enough to gain admittance to a college near his home. After graduation, he decided to take the LSAT just to see how he’d do. Pretty well, it turned out. Hudson earned a law degree from Harvard University, where he spent his spare time in nearby Walden Woods and immersed himself in the writings of Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Merton. During and immediately after law school, he traveled widely, including a 40-day solo canoe journey down the Yukon River. Eventually, he moved to Nashville and worked for a law

firm, but after a short time, he left. To explain why, he recites this passage from Thoreau's "Walden: or, Life In The Woods": "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Today Hudson is the chief ranger at Obed Wild and Scenic River, a series of deep gorges cut into the Cumberland Plateau. At the bottom, framed by sheer sandstone bluffs that attract serious rock climbers, lies what some paddlers describe as the finest white water in the East. An expert climber and paddler himself, Hudson brings all the sixth-graders in this rural county into the gorge each year for a rock climbing and river paddling experience. He wants to instill in them some of what drew him away from a career in the skyscraper canyons of Nashville back to his beloved Plateau. Hudson hopes they will understand and appreciate the remote, extraordinary place where they live. "It's an intimate beauty," Hudson says. "The Obed is full of hidden places — things you would not expect. You discover things here, close up."

ETWC, Christmas Party

Thanks again to Sam Suffern for hosting another great Christmas party. The food was wonderful, the drinks were cold, and the company was the best! And everybody wound up with just what they wanted at the gift exchange. New officers and activity leads were elected.

February Meeting Minutes

We had a great turnout at our February 19 meeting at the Casual Pint.

Business: We formally approved our donations for 2019 as listed below:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • 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 |
| • Cumberland Trail Conference | \$100 |
| • Little River Watershed Association | <u>\$ 75</u> |
| | \$1,000 |

Program: Our Presenter was Veronica Greear, a Ranger with the NPS Obed Wild and Scenic River who discussed the upcoming "National Park in your Backyard" program coming up in May. This will be the 8th Year of the program and it has been extremely successful. The program has become something that the kids look forward to as they enter 6th grade and is having a major impact on their perception of the park. Veronica described how more local people are developing an interest in the park, and vandalism, destruction, and littering in the park have dropped significantly since the kids have been interacting with the Rangers and our volunteers instilling an interest in the park in these kids.

Checking Account as of 12/31/18

\$9,403.34

SAVINGS ACCOUNT AS OF 12/14/18

\$6,134.43

Total Assets as of 12/31/18

\$15,537.77

Thank You Kary for keeping up with all of our finances for another year! Great job!

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.

Below is the winter roll practice schedule. Hope to see you there!

Our weekly coordinators are:

Roll Practice 2019

3/1/2019	Tom Lessick
3/8/2019	Rick Zingg
3/15/2019	April Morton
3/22/2019	Mark Bevelhimer
3/29/2019	Mark Bevelhimer
4/5/2019	Darren & Donna Price
4/12/2019	April Morton
4/19/2019	No Roll Practice (Good Friday)
4/26/2019	Kary Scarborough

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.

PROGRAMS

We are always looking for interesting programs for our meetings. If you have a program or an idea for one, please contact Darren Price at 865-742-4136.

2019 ETWC OFFICERS

President	Mark Bevelhimer	865-679-9242	mbevelhimer@gmail.com
Vice President	Darren Price	865-742-4136	Darren.price@hoffman-hoffman.com
Secretary	Pat Zingg	865-382-3295	pzingg@pstcc.edu
Treasurer	Kary Scarborough	865-483-7525	kary_scarborough@att.net
Newsletter	Bill Lewis	865-387-7821	bill.lewis865@gmail.com
Roll Practice			
Trip Coordinator			
Membership	Donna Price	865-406-1058	donnaprice826@yahoo.com
Conservation	Need Volunteer		
Safety	Christian Balz	865-387-0997	Balz.christian1@gmail.com
Kayak Clinic	Francis Ruppel	865-332-7725	fruppel@knology.net
Webmaster	April Morton	909-859-5542	april.m.morton@gmail.com

Please keep your dues up to date!

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**

Or go to our web site at: <http://etwcweb.com/membership/> and you can pay online.

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](#)

**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)