



THE KANSAS PADDLER

KCKA HOME PAGE

www.kansascanoe.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Hidden Gems</i>	2
<i>Flying Fish</i>	3
<i>Right PFD?</i>	4
<i>Boundary Waters</i>	5
<i>Board of Directors</i>	10
<i>Member List</i>	12
<i>Membership App.</i>	15

CHANGES ARE HERE!

2008 President's Report



President David Cobb fishing in the Boundary Waters

Fellow Paddlers:

The snow and cold weather have got to go away sometime. The cold weather has given me time to get out my old gear and find those good sales

online for new toys. I think everyday about our 2007 boundary waters trip, watching the sunsets, catching fish and conversation around the campfire under the stars.

KCKA Welcomes you to 2008 and there will be change. This year KCKA will have club trips. You will have the opportunity to go on a least one trip a month. These trips are for club members only. Requirements for participating in KCKA are you must be a member, agree to trip participant guidelines, and have mailed your trip waiver form to KCKA. You can read the trip participant guidelines and print out a copy of the trip waiver form at www.kansascanoe.org . If you have a great place to float and would like to share your knowledge of the waters, you might think of coordinating a KCKA trip. If so contact KCKA at kcka1975@cox.net .

Also in 2008 there will be changes to the newsletter. The cost of printing keeps getting higher and the club can't afford to print four newsletters a year without raising club dues. For 2008 KCKA will print two hardcopy newsletters, two newsletters that will be available via www.kansascanoe.org and E-mail. You will also receive three supplementals Called "Kansas Paddlers Blitz". The blitz will include trip schedule updates, hot topics, gear for sale, and other useful information. The board feels that these changes will help the club and help our members connect better with other members.

I hope that you have a great 2008 paddling season. We would like to see you on the water this year.




**Kansas River
Canoe Co.**

and
Lawrence/Kansas City
KOA Kampground

1473 Hwy 40
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 842-3877
(800) 562-3708 res. only

Canoe and kayak
float trips on the
Delaware/Kansas
River



THE HIDDEN GEMS OF KANSAS

By:
Larry Storer
The Yellow Kayak
www.theyellowkayak.com

I set out on my journey to paddle 10 lakes across the state of Kansas on May 4. I did not have any expectations of the lakes that I had chosen but I did hope they would be interesting and attractive. Much to my surprise, every lake that I visited held its own distinct charm and attraction. It made me wonder why these lakes are not on the tips of every touring kayakers tongue in the state. This journey was like finding hidden gems tucked quietly and neatly into the hills of the great Kansas prairies. I felt quite honored to be paddling these hidden treasures, and for pedaling my bicycle with kayak in tow across these great prairies.



The following are my accounts of discovering and paddling on these hidden gems.

The wind was blowing hard from the south as we prepared for our departure on the morning of Friday (May 4th), so I double checked my kayak tie-downs and made sure my kayak trailer was also lashed down securely. I double checked and triple checked my gear to make sure I had everything I would need for the next 15 days, because once Linda dropped me off on the 6th, I would be on my own for the next 11 days. Everything was a go so we set sail and headed west. My first stop was the beautiful Wilson Lake. Wilson is a 9000 acre lake that is surrounded by sandstone and grassland lending to the incredible water quality. I pushed my paddle vertically down into the water as far as I could, about 6.5 - 7 feet and could still see the lettering on the paddle blade. I was thrilled because I had not paddled on water this clear in years. I began to think that this type of water was mythical and only existed in stories of great paddling expeditions. Okay, maybe I need to travel to more places other than central Kansas where the water is the color of the farmland that surrounds it. The shorelines of Wilson Lake are just as impressive as the water quality. High sandstone bluffs and nice sand beaches surround this lake making it a wonderful place to kayak. The motorboat traffic is high as this is a very popular fishing lake, but an early morning excursion around the lake will let you enjoy the water, the scenery, and the wildlife at your leisure. I plan to revisit Wilson Lake and spend a weekend exploring its shorelines and enjoying the translucent blue green waters that fisherman have kept secret for years. This is an exceptional lake for kayakers, with plenty of camping facilities, easy access to the water, an abundance of wildlife and plenty of coves and open water to satisfy any touring kayaker.

We awoke Saturday (May 5th) to a slightly gentler wind so we decided we needed to head west toward Scott State Lake before the winds picked back up. Scott State Lake is located just 14 miles north of Scott City, KS and appears like an oasis in this vast flat prairie. The lake is a 100-acre fishing lake that is spring fed. My paddle test showed 3-4 foot clarity of the water, which I believe is due to the rich grasslands, wooded canyons, and the high limestone bluffs that surround the lake. With the rise of kayak fishing, this is not a lake to overlook. This little lake is long and narrow but it did offer a nice 1.5 - 2 hour leisurely paddle exploring its winding shoreline. You will be surprised when you visit this beautiful little gem of a lake. You will be driving along some of Kansas' flattest grasslands and all at once you are in a different world filled with great cottonwoods, mighty oaks, abundant wildlife, and diverse grasses all huddled around this wonderful little body of water.



Ready to launch on Tuttle

Sunday (May 6th) morning found me on my bike and heading for Cedar Bluff Reservoir. This was an 82-mile bike ride (pulling 100 lbs of kayak and gear) plagued by a few rain

(Continued on page 7)

NIGHT OF THE FLYING FISH....

By: Libby Albers

The July 26th Wichita Paddlers' float started like most: vehicles arrived at the launch site filled with eager paddlers; gear slid off trailers and out of trucks; paddle shafts slipped, clicked, and snapped together; and boats made wakes in the grass as they were pulled down the bank.

Trip organizer Chris Collins gave the group a quick lesson on feathered versus flat blades and proper paddling techniques. Soon, six new paddlers would have their first kayak float while on the Little Arkansas River. All thirteen boaters would have an evening to remember.

Time on the water – 6:45 PM.



“Suddenly, the surface exploded – fish were flying out of the water ...”

The group stopped on the left bank at the 13th Street Bridge to “pose” for a picture. From left to right: Jackie Tabor, David Larsen, Mickie Wallace, Dennis Woodworth, Kay Drennen, Lia Keller, Libby Albers, Zack Myers, Michelle Myers, Laura Phillips, Dwan Green, and Anne Robben. Chris Collins (not pictured).

“Watch out for shopping carts under the 21st Street bridge,” hollered veteran paddler, Dwan Green. “They’ll snag your paddle blades.” Inching under the bridge, the paddlers stared at the water’s surface, looking for any shadow or glint of submerged debris. Although the carts lurked just below the surface, the metal monsters failed to grab any of their paddling prey.

Suddenly, the surface exploded – fish were flying out of the water into the eddy, the logjam strainer, and away from the bridge. Silvery shad jumped over boat bows and towards an excited Great Blue Heron.

This strange “flying fish” behavior would repeat itself throughout the float whenever the boats went through calm, sheltered reaches of the Little Ark.

New boaters, Mickie Wallace, Laura Phillips, and Anne Robben tried out “sit-on-top” kayaks while the rest of the group used traditional recreational boats. Dwan floated in his high-tech fiberglass downriver racing boat.

Around every bend in the river, the boaters marveled at riparian plants, signs of wildlife, and the abundance and diversity of herons. By the float’s end, the heron count was four Great Blues (or just one really annoyed

(Continued on page 10)

Do You Have the Right PFD for Your Paddling Needs?

All recreational boats must carry one wearable PFD (Type I, II, III or Type V PFD) for each person aboard. A Type V PFD provides performance of either a Type I, II, or III PFD (as marked on its label) and must be used according to the label requirements. Any boat 16ft and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also carry one throwable PFD (Type IV PFD).

1. Select a PFD based on its intended end use.
2. Check with each state regarding their specific laws regarding the wearing of PFDs.
3. Fit is crucial. Make sure your PFD is the right size.
4. Proper maintenance ensures better buoyancy.

PFDs are broken down into 5 categories, based on their intended use. Manufacturers must meet certain requirements in order to obtain USCG approval within these categories. If you are paddling, you will probably want a Type III, as they are considerably more comfortable and less bulky than their counterparts.

Type I

This offshore PFD is recommended for rough, open water. It's the "Mae West" life jacket that's found aboard ships at sea. Although it will turn most unconscious wearers to a face-up position in the water, it is extremely bulky, and not at all comfortable for paddling.

Type II

Designed for use near shore, where the chances of a quick rescue are likely, this is the standard bright orange "horse collar" that fits around your neck. It will turn most but not all unconscious wearers to a face-up position. This style of PFD is a bit cumbersome for paddling.

Type III

PFDs rated Type III are the most comfortable for paddling. Designed for inland water where rescue will be quick, these vests require the wearer to place himself in a face-up position in the water. The streamlined fit and large armholes offer maximum freedom of movement. Jackets in this category range from vests and pullovers to a combination of the two, with the best choice being a matter of personal comfort and preference.

Type IV

Buoyant cushions and rings that can be thrown to a swimmer fall into this category. They are intended for use in calm water with a lot of boat traffic, where help is always available. For paddling, they are best used in conjunction with a wearable PFD, as they are not USCG approved for canoe and kayak use.

Type V

These highly specialized vests are designed for specific activities such as sailing, water-skiing and paddling. They must be worn according to the instructions on the label, or they are not considered USCG approved.

Welcome New KCKA Members

Blake White Junction City KS
 Danette Umholtz Lawrence KS
 Dena Robinson Wichita KS



PADDLING THE BOUNDARY WATERS

By Tom Grist

Get the paddling group together, check. Get the July dates approved with everyone, check. Get the permits, check. Get the trip details planned, check. Then came the telephone call from David Cobb. "Do you know there is a forest fire burning our entire BWCA paddling route right now?" I knew everything had gone too smoothly.

But it was true. And by the time the fire had been contained, the Hamm Lake fire had truly burned our entire route. We didn't yet know the extent to which the campsites, portages, and trees had been damaged, but as we watched the Internet for news reports, it didn't look good.

As it turned out, most of our route had damage ranging from complete destruction to spotty pockets of burned trees. Most of the campsites were usable and some were completely untouched. We were lucky to find plenty of campsites that had no damage, but one hundred yards away the landscape had been burned to the ground.



Tom Grist paddling across Magnetic Lake at the start of the trip.



Checking gear in Minneapolis

Based on information and pictures of the area available on the internet, we decided to go ahead with the trip. At the very least it would be a whole new experience to travel through an extensively burned area and, at best, it wouldn't be as bad as some pictures indicated.

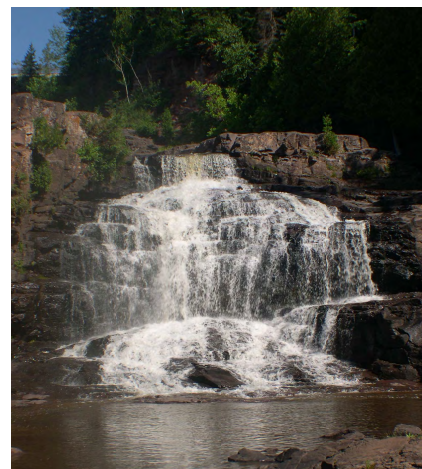
So, on July 12, our group of seven paddlers (eight total after picking up one more in Minneapolis) headed for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Total driving time to the launch site was about sixteen hours and included overnight stops in Minneapolis to leave family members at a relative's house and get Minnesota watercraft permits, camping at the City of Two Harbors Burlington Bay campground on Lake Superior's North Shore, and pre-launch camping at Trails End Campground at the end of the Gunflint Trail.

Along the way we saw some spectacular scenery starting in Duluth, continuing along the North Shore, and up the Gunflint Trail.

The Gunflint Trail is a two-lane highway running from Grand Marais and ending at Trails End Campground. We stopped at several waterfalls to stretch, good local restaurants to eat, and even watched a mother moose and her two calves feeding in a roadside marsh.

After spending the night at the campground, we put in at Gunflint Lake on Monday morning July 16. Our permits allowed only 4 boats and up to nine people per group. Therefore, we had to travel in two groups of four kayakers separated by at least thirty minutes. The groups could not camp together. We were told that rangers were along the route and would enforce these rules with fines and "education".

Limitations on group size are in place to minimize environmental impact on the area and particularly on campsites. Groups must use designated campsites. Campsites include tent sites, metal fire ring/grill usually surrounded by log benches, and pit toilet.



Waterfall along Lake Superior's North Shore

The weather for our trip was gorgeous. Temperatures during the day were 60's and 70's and cooled down to 40's and 50's at

(Continued on page 6)

PADDLING THE BOUNDARY WATERS

(Continued from page 5)

night. Great sleeping weather! We had only one night of rainy weather when a cool front moved through. However, the next day paddling against a 35 mph direct headwind on a three mile unprotected lake was challenging, to say the least. But we all made it and were in better shape when we finished. Water levels were slightly down from normal but the water temperatures were high enough for great swimming.



Alan Poe paddling through a burned section of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Our route consisted of five days of paddling along the Granite River, through Saganaga Lake, and back into Sea Gull Lake. We stayed two days in one campsite to enjoy the fishing and the relaxation of being in such a wonderful setting.

The first day, while being the shortest distance, was the hardest due to several portages, including a 100 rod (1600 feet) portage. Portaging kayaks is not easy. We tried several ways including unloading them and carrying the gear and kayak separately; partially unloading them; two people carrying them on shoulders; one person at the front and two at the rear using a paddle stuck through the handle; and two people lifting and dragging the whole way.

In the end, we just tried to avoid portaging at all. We ran the rapids we could, floated the kayaks with lines when needed, or did short portages around impassable rocks or falls without unloading. Of course,

safety should be your primary goal, so carefully scout anything you are considering and portage when you have no other choice.

We leisurely paddled and fished 4.4 miles the first day looking in awe at the huge areas of blackened trees from the fires. The underbrush was completely burned down to the soil with rocky areas, boulders, and steep rock faces, usually hidden by forest, obvious to view. Everything had a short layer of new green growth coming through. It had a strange beauty, knowing that out of such devastation would be an entirely new plant cycle and renewal of the entire area.

Our second day, to me, was the most interesting paddling day. We paddled 6.1 miles on mostly narrow lakes with runnable rapids between. Best of all, we avoided all portages. The fishing was great. Everyone was catching fish including small mouth bass, walleye, and northern pike. Fishing lures used were imitation crawdad crankbaits, red and gold Mepps spinners, and chartreuse and orange spinners. The best fishing could be found where waterfalls or rapids emptied into a lake.

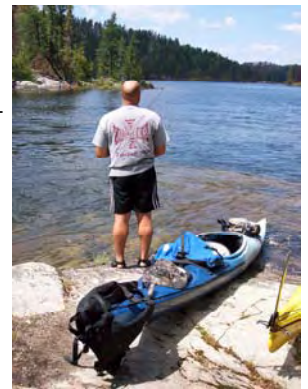
Our group found an ideal campsite on an island in Gneiss Lake close to a large rapid entering from the lake above. We decided to stay there two days to fish and relax. It was a good choice. The fishing was awesome around our island and other small islands close by. Plus, we could catch fish after fish at the bottom end of the rapids. We had tasty fish fries for the next two nights.

At this campsite, we had bald eagles observing us from afar and even coming to take our fish cleaning remains in a memorable snatch-and-grab not thirty yards from our campsite! We swam, napped, watched nature, and explored. The only problem in this campsite was the nightly attack of billions of mosquitoes. They were so bad we had to retreat to our tents and regret that our planned campfires and barely believable campfire stories would have to wait for another time.



David Cobb preparing food at a campsite.

We awoke to a cold, windy fourth day. After breaking camp early, we paddled through some protected narrow lakes and then into the aforementioned three miles of extremely hard, windy paddling on Marabeuf Lake. We paddled 10.1 miles that day with some very short portages where we were able to either float the boats through unrunnable water or slide them fully loaded around waterfalls. We paddled toward the end of the day in more open water and camped on Clark Island in Saganaga Lake.



David Cobb fishing below some rapids.

(Continued on page 11)

HIDDEN GEMS

(Continued from page 2)

showers and a Northerly wind. At the end of my 10-hour ride I arrived at this expansive 6000-acre reservoir, which is created by damming up the Smokey Hill River. The countryside surrounding Cedar Bluff consist of rolling hills and tree studded shorelines. The lake was very low due to a dry spell in western Kansas so it was hard to give this lake a fair assessment, but the water clarity was good at about 2-3 feet. By looking at the normal pool water line, this would be a great lake to poke around on for a day or more. Once again if you are a kayak fisherman, do not overlook this lake. There is an abundance of tree-studded water that I have been told is a great harbor for fish. I am not a fisherman so I don't know if this holds true or not. With this being the predominant source of water, the wildlife is abundant and there are many good places from which to observe it. I know for a fact that there were at least five very talkative owls near my campsite all night long.

Monday morning (May 7th) found me on the bike heading toward Hill City, KS. Hill City was a layover stop as I headed toward Webster Reservoir. Webster Reservoir is an impressive body of water, about 5,500-6000 acres at normal pool. This lake, as well as the western lakes that I have encountered, is a little below normal due to the lack of rain in the last few years, but nonetheless, a beautiful lake. The water clarity was great, about 4-5 feet. What I keep seeing in these nice clear lakes is that there are huge buffer zones of grassland surrounding not only the lakes, but also their watersheds, giving these lakes their clear, translucent gem-like qualities. Webster's shorelines vary from limestone bluffs to grass covered hills, which made for interesting paddling. As I paddled along quietly I got to see deer, pheasant, as well as countless ducks. I plan to return to this wonderful gem of a lake and spend a weekend just poking around the shorelines and paddling the open water. Webster, like many of the western lakes, is thought of mainly as a fishing and skiing lake, but a kayaker will be right at home here. There are many beautiful and well-maintained campsites around the lake so it lends itself to group gatherings or just a nice weekend getaway.

After leaving Webster and pointing my bike towards the east I headed for Waconda Lake. After a day and a half of rest in my boyhood home town of Osborne, I arrived at Waconda on Friday morning (May 11th), and much to my surprise and delight, the first thing I saw as I pulled in the state park entrance was a truck with two kayaks on top. I checked in with the park office and found out that the truck belonged to the very nice lady that was helping me. What a great day this already was. Not only are these the first kayaks I have seen on my trip, but also I am talking with the owner and setting up a time to paddle with her and her husband for that evening. I did not think this lake could hold any more surprises for me but it did. The clarity of this lake was incredible 6.5-7 feet. I was thrilled. The lake was low so it was a pretty good portage from my campsite to the water's edge, but it was very much worth it. This lake has a lot of little fingers, tree lined shores and an abundance of wildlife, which always makes for an interesting paddle. After a very nice and relaxing afternoon paddle I went back to camp to rest and await my evening guests. Karen & Joel Danner, my new kayaking friends, showed up about 6 o'clock and were ready to get on the water. Joel headed us toward the dam while we shared stories, talked about the KCKA and its widespread network of paddlers, and talked about some the nice attributes of Waconda. I knew I had a long ride ahead of me the next morning so after about 2 hours on the water I had to call it an evening. I said good-bye to my new friends and headed for my campsite.



Morning arrived for me at about 3:30 a.m. as it did most days. This allowed me to be on the road between 5:30 and 6:00. I had a 70-mile bike ride ahead of me in order to reach my layover stop of Clay Center. I chose Clay Center as a layover because getting to Wakefield, my gateway to the big lake of Milford, would make for too many miles on my bike in one day. A day and a half after leaving beautiful Waconda I arrived at the impressive Milford State Lake (May 13th). Milford was even more impressive this time because the big rains from a week ago had boosted the water level considerably. I camped at Clay County Park, which is located on the southeast corner of Wakefield. This park was a treasure in itself by being located adjacent to the lake and having easy access to the water. Milford is like a large diamond with its incredible translucent water and its multifaceted shoreline making this lake a very popular and attractive destination. A touring kayaker could spend days exploring this lake and never see it all. Wildlife abounds everywhere around this large body of water, so if you like to poke along the shorelines and watch birds or you like to cruise along the open water and catch a glimpse of deer drinking at water's edge, you will find it here. I did not do a paddle test do to the turbidity of the water caused by the heavy rains, but I do know from past paddling trips on Milford that the water is nice and clear. A paddle test is my way of checking the water clarity. I insert my paddle

vertically into the water and see how far down I can insert it and still read the writing on the paddle blade. This lake is centrally located in Kansas, which makes this an easy destination for any kayaker wishing for a nice weekend on the water.

(Continued on page 8)

HIDDEN GEMS

(Continued from page 7)

I encountered high lake levels from Milford on east to Hillsdale, which was great because I was able to explore areas of the lakes that are normally not reachable by kayak. High water on a lake also changes the appearance of the lake, so no matter how many times you have paddled a lake, everything looks different under these conditions. Anytime you are on the water, especially under these circumstances, it is important to pay attention to where you are going and where you have been. If you are launching from a cove or a small tributary and heading onto the main lake, stop and turn around so that you see what the cove or entrance to the tributary will look like when you approach it from the main lake.

I arrive at Tuttle Creek Lake (May 14th) only to find that all roads leading down to the lake are closed, meaning I have a 200+ yard portage to the waters edge. I decided I would camp and paddle at River Pond State park, which is located below the dam. River Pond is a wonderful paddling spot in and of itself so this was a good last minute compromise. I had many debates with myself along my 480-mile bike trip, some I won and some I lost, but this was a great compromise. I paddle Tuttle on a regular basis so I felt I could fairly report on the lake and what it offers as well as staying safe during extreme lake levels. Tuttle Creek Lake/Reservoir is a long narrow lake, averaging only 1 mile wide and about 12 miles long. This lake is notorious for its wind because of the angle at which it lies and also because of the hills that surround the lake. If you want to practice your rough water paddling skills this is a great lake to do it on. At normal pool the shoreline around Tuttle varies from large boulder cliffs to beautiful sand beaches and everything in between. There are several excellent camping spots at lake's edge with easy access to the water. These camping spots will easily accommodate large groups, thus making it a great lake for any size of get-together. The water is extra muddy because of the heavy rains, but on average a paddle test done at Tuttle will reveal 6-8 inch clarity. Tuttle's watershed is comprised of mostly farmland, so most of the waters coming into Tuttle are heavily laden with soil particles and other organic mater. Tuttle Creek Lake is like a milky quartz crystal, not clear or translucent but very attractive in its own way. This is a great lake to paddle and spend a weekend exploring the varied shorelines so don't pass up the opportunity to visit this wonderful body of water.



Getting ready to hit the road

I am on the road and headed for Perry Lake/Reservoir (May 15th). This is my last big ride, about 76 miles, and I am glad to get it under my belt. I arrived at Perry at about 2 o'clock, which left me with plenty of time to check things out and find a good put-in spot. With the high water, some of the best put-ins are right past the road-closed signs. You have a nice surface under the water to launch from and you don't have to worry about getting muddy. Perry Lake is an incredible body of water, at about 12,500 acres; there is a lot of shoreline to follow and a lot of open water to cruise on. I have always found Perry to be a nice clear lake and this time is no exception. Even with the large amount of water coming into the lake, I had about 3-4 feet of clarity. Perry is a busy lake on the weekends but during the week and early in the morning you have the lake to yourself, which allows you to observe the abundant wildlife that visits the shoreline gathering food or getting a drink. I was not able to spend a lot of time on Perry because after visiting with a fisherman, I found out that my eleven mile bike ride the next day was going to be a thirty-five mile ride



Low brace play on Waconda

due to bridge construction. I opted to paddle Perry the day I arrived instead of the next morning. This would allow me to get an early start on my bike ride to Clinton Lake. I enjoy Perry Lake with its varied shoreline and clear waters. It makes for a nice relaxing trip no matter what season or what time of day.

Wednesday morning (May 16th) I am on the road again and heading for Clinton Lake. I had visited Clinton one time previous to this trip but did not spend any time on the water, so I am looking forward to this visit. I am not let down upon my arrival to Clinton, and quite frankly amazed by this lake. The shorelines are comprised of high bluffs and oak covered hills. What an incredible site! After resting for a little while and refueling the body I am ready to check out this precious gem of a lake from water level. I jump on my bike and head for the lake. I have to

negotiate past a couple of barricades, but then it's off to the water. When you are paddling in an area with high water levels such as this lake and the three previous, you get an odd feeling once in awhile knowing you are paddling over the tops of trees and

(Continued on page 9)

HIDDEN GEMS

(Continued from page 8)

even sometimes buildings. It makes you reflect and refreshes your respect for Mother Nature and what she is capable of. I know that without these dams, there would not be these large pools of water, but think about the large amount of water that fell in a large area in order to raise the levels of these lakes as much as it has risen. Okay, enough deep thought, back to kayaking. Cruising along the shorelines of Clinton was a very relaxing time. Just looking out across the vast water and then turning my head the other way and seeing all of these large oaks and high bluffs was enough to forget the energy it took to get to this point in my tour. If you want to find a place to shed your stress and relax, give this beautiful lake a chance. I don't think you will be let down. Try getting on the water at about sunrise and you will see a whole new world in front of your eyes, provided they are open. I am a morning person, so this is my normal paddling time. Can you think of a better way to set the mood for the day?

“Kayaking is a sport for all ages, all shapes, all sizes, and all fitness levels....”

Today is the day. I am a little bit nervous and a little bit eager this morning (May 17th), because I head for Hillsdale Lake. Hillsdale is the last stop on my 10 Lakes Tour, and after this morning's ride, I will have covered over 480 miles across Kansas on my bike with my kayak in tow. I arrive at Hillsdale Lake and I have to stop and laugh at myself about the camping spot I have chosen. I have traveled 480 miles to get to this beautiful lake and then I have chosen a camping spot that is an additional 5 miles of winding roads that take me away from the lake and then back to it. It is beautiful country, but an additional 5 miles! I was greeted to the camping area by a large sign on the side of my truck congratulating me on my accomplishment. My wife, Linda Rae, was there to greet me and give me a ride home. I had one last thing to do before heading home and that was to paddle this wonderful body of water. Hillsdale is a fairly new lake (early 1980's) that covers 4,500 acres. The shorelines vary from limestone bluffs to grassy, gently sloping hills. With great water clarity, 4-5 feet, this is a great lake to spend some time on. I traveled around the tree-studded shoreline relaxing and enjoying the scenery. Hillsdale is a lake that would easily accommodate a group gathering. It is a popular lake but if you are there on a weekday or get out on the lake early in the morning, the lake will be all yours.

Through my travels across this great state I had the opportunity to visit some incredible bodies of water and meet some great people. My whole premise behind the bicycle/kayak trip was to promote kayaking in Kansas and to encourage people to get out and enjoy their local lakes. I hope that after reading this article you will go load your gear, call your paddling buddies and head to your favorite paddling spot or visit one the lakes that I had the opportunity to visit. Kayaking is a sport for all ages, all shapes, all sizes, and all fitness levels, so if you know someone who has wanted to try kayaking but is unsure how to get started, help them out. Help them find a good instructor that can get them started on the right path of safe and fun paddling and then take them with you the next time you go to your favorite paddling spot. You are the best ambassador for the sport because you are already hooked on it. It is my dream to go to my favorite paddling spot and see a multitude of kayaks preparing to be launched by paddlers like you. I will see you on the water.

MEMBER PICS



Jim Weaver on the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado.

OZARK ADVENTURES 

OZARK ADVENTURES 1328 E. REPUBLIC RD
 SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

E-MAIL Us (417) 889-8633

john@ozarkadventures.com



QUIET CANOES

HUSH UP & PADDLE!

19120 258th Rd
 Atchison, KS 66002
 913-367-4084

web site: www.QuietCanoes.com
 e-mail: rendezvous@QuietCanoes.com

KCKA Board of Directors



The 2008 KCKA Board of Directors met January 5 at the Wichita Water Center. Pictured are, starting at left: Don Varnau, Treasurer/Membership; Tom Grist, At-Large/Newsletter; TJ Hittle, Kayak Chapter Director/Activities Chair; Libby Albers, At-Large; Michelle Myers, Secretary; David Cobb, President; Mick O'Shea, Safety/Education. Not pictured: Shirley Hess, At-Large; Richard Seaton, Internal Affairs. Marketing, Past President, and President-elect are vacant.

KCKA EVENTS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Saturday, January 26	KCKA Kayak Chapter Party	Mick O'Shea
Sunday, January 27	Spring 2008 Intermediate KCKA Kayak Chapter Workshop.	www.tryufm.org or TJ Hittle
Sunday, February 17	Spring 2008 Intermediate KCKA Kayak Chapter Workshop.	www.tryufm.org or TJ Hittle
Saturday, April 5	ACA Introduction to Canoe	Mick O'Shea
Sunday, April 6	Paddle Skills Workshop(tentative)	Mick O'Shea
Saturday, May 17	Fall River Day Float	David Cobb
Friday, June 6-8	Blue River Self-support Float Trip	Richard Seaton
Sunday, June 8	Kansas River Clean-Up & Float	Mick O'Shea
Friday, June 20-23	Buffalo River Trip	David Cobb

VISIT www.kansascanoe.org FOR DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS AND CURRENT SCHEDULE

NIGHT OF THE FLYING FISH

(Continued from page 3)

one), one Little Blue, one Greenback, several Black-crowned Night Herons, a very calm Great Egret, one Snowy, and a handful of Cattle Egrets.

New paddler Lia Keller summed it up well: "Every now and then I have a moment when I feel at peace with the world. Life just felt 'right.' I got to go kayaking and there was a moment when the water was still, the wind was rustling through a nearby tree and dozens of tiny birds were circling overhead in the setting sun."

As the sun went down, the paddlers floated by the old limestone walls of Riverside Park. The trip was almost over. Families could be heard playing in the park; geese honked their good-byes. One last lesson for the night – getting out of a kayak and onto the floating dock. Thirteen happy (and dry) paddlers left the river for the night, vowing to do it all again soon.

Time off the water – 9:30 PM. Miles: 4.55

PADDLING THE BOUNDARY WATERS

(Continued from page 6)

The campsite we used was large and protected from the north wind. We fished along the shore and watched one of the most beautiful sunsets I can remember. However, once again being disturbed by motorboats was not ideal.



Tom Grist with the day's supper of smallmouth bass.

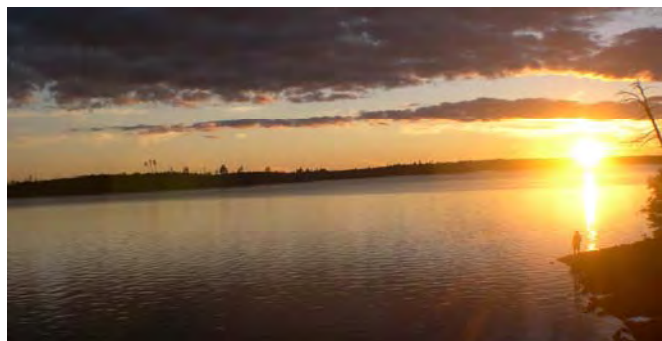
On our final day we paddled 3.4 miles up Sea Gull River to the Sea Gull Lake takeout back at Trails End Campground. After a nice, hot shower we headed down the Gunflint Trail towards home. Of course we couldn't end the trip without some kind of trouble. On the way back, the trailer hauling six kayaks blew a tire and had to have axle, wheel and tire repairs done before continuing. No damage was done to the kayaks.

It is important to remember that taking a multi-day trip where you will be far from help takes careful planning for emergencies, taking everything you need, and being in good shape for the rigors of paddling distances in a fully loaded kayak and portaging.

For more information on obtaining permits for paddling the BWCAW or camping in the Trails End Campground, contact Reserve America (www.bwcaw.org). The outfitter we used to rent two kayaks, purchase hot showers, get last minute supplies, and eat at their restaurant was Way of the Wilderness Canoe Outfitters (www.wayofthewilderness.com). To reserve a campsite at the City of Two Harbors Burlington Bay Campground, call 218-834-2021.



Homeward bound along the Sea Gull River



One of David Cobb's beautiful sunset pictures.



From left; Tom Grist, David Cobb, and Mark Ruggles take a break to view fire-ravaged hillsides.

SUNFLOWER OUTDOOR —R— BIKE

802 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
Phone : 785-843-5000
e-mail: info@sunfloweroutdoor.com
Hours: M,T,W,F, 10-7; Th 10-8; Sat
10-6; Sun 12-5



KCKA - Membership Application / Renewal

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. Fill out this form completely, even if you are renewing.

Date: _____ Participant Name(s) _____

Participant Name(s) _____

Participant Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

Renewal adds 12 months to an existing membership. Please check the renewal box if renewing.

SELECT APPROPRIATE KCKA MEMBERSHIP:

- _____ \$15.00 Single/Family KCKA Renewal
- _____ \$85.00 Associate/Business Membership (w/a 6
column inch KCKA Newsletter ad & website ad)
- _____ \$200.00 Life Membership (not including chapter dues)
- _____ My additional contribution to KCKA Conservation-
Access Program

OPTIONAL KCKA CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

_____ \$5.00 KCKA Kayak Chapter

\$ _____ **TOTAL OF ALL KCKA FEES**

Make Check Payable to KCKA for this portion.

Please tell us how you heard about the Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association - check all that apply:

- From a friend who boats
- Another KCKA Member
- KansasCanoe.org
- KANSAS PADDLER Home Page
- Information at a business,
name:: _____
- Article in News Media
- Other:

My areas of interest include (check all that apply):

- Family/Flatwater Canoeing (Class I-II)
- Kayak Touring (Class I-II)
- Whitewater Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting
(Class III+)

Send Application and Fee to:

Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association
PO Box 44-2490
Lawrence, KS 66044

KCKA depends upon volunteer efforts. I am willing to help with these activities:

- Marketing/Membership
- Flatwater/Touring Trips
- Whitewater Trips
- Instruction/Safety
- Special Events, Rendezvous, etc
Website

Separate Liability Waiver – REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

Revised: January 2, 2008


Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association
PO Box 44-2490
Lawrence, KS 66044

KCKA Home Page
www.kansascanoe.org



304 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-539-5639

Serving Northeast Kansas since 1975



KANSAS CITY
Paddler
CANOES • BEAR • KAYAKS

for the River of Life