

THREE RIVERS CHAPTER

Issue 125
October 2017

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Annual Meeting at Sylvan Canoe Club

**Sunday, October 22, 2:00 p.m.
132 Arch St., Verona Pa.**

Our next gathering will be the annual meeting at Sylvan. The main item of business is to elect new board members. These positions are staggered every other year, and there will be several slots to fill. Please think about serving. New members and new ideas keep our chapter healthy. We also would like to hear from members with program

ideas, so bring your suggestions along.

Weather permitting, there will be a paddle on the river and possibly a hike on the nearby Sycamore Island nature preserve. The chapter will provide the main course and coffee. Please bring drinks and a dish to share. See you there! ☕

Allegheny Adventure

Once again we enjoyed the hospitality of member Millie Sass for an outing on the Allegheny River the weekend of September 8–9. As can be seen

from the photo below, folks were a little wary of the river after our boney experience last year. As a result few wooden canoes were in evidence. Of course it turned out that the river was higher this year and would have been fine for our wooden beauties, but that is hindsight.

The weather was nearly perfect and without the ferocious headwinds we experienced last year. We were joined for part of the paddle by friends from the Allegheny Canoe Club.

Millie welcomed those of us who arrived Friday evening with a cabin decorated for the occasion. Upon closer inspection,



Getting this canoe floating on water—instead of air—could be a worthy project.

we found that her cabin was illuminated with a string of lights sporting miniature PFDs and canoes.

After a delightful morning paddle from upstream of Millie's, we returned for a late afternoon pot luck lunch provided by those in attendance. Many folks stayed on into the evening to enjoy visiting around the campfire.

Thanks to Millie for another memorable weekend! ❖

Chapter Takes on a New Project

by Andy Hutyera

Our chapter has again undertaken a restoration project, this time in preparation for next year's assembly at Peterborough, Ontario.

The story begins when our newest member, Ted Kemp, started looking for a new home for his old, well-used canoe. Ted, who is in his mid-80s, decided that it was time to part with his old friend. He became acquainted with WCHA member Allen Ault and inquired if he knew anyone who could restore and provide a new home for his old canoe. Allen suggested that he might contact member Fred Capenos to see if he were interested.

The canoe is a Peterborough high-end Champlain. Fred explained to Ted that he already owned a low-end Champlain and wasn't really looking for another. Fred



A warm welcome at Millie's cabin (top).

Unique light fixtures (middle).

A relaxing evening by the campfire (bottom).

suggested that it might be appropriate to let our chapter restore the canoe and, because it is a Peterborough, donate it to the fund-raising auction next summer at Peterborough, Ontario. Ted was delighted with the idea and was glad to donate the canoe for our restoration project. He wrote Fred the letter below.

Restoration is already underway. The canoe has been stripped and the damage assessed. There are the usual bad stem tips and deck rot. Both the inwales and outwales must be replaced. To make things more interesting, it seems there were a fair number of steel fasteners used during construction, perhaps



The model number 1434 identifies this canoe as a high-end Champlain.

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a leftover from the war years. The planking had only one nail per rib under the canvas and had additional nails applied *through* the canvas before the filler was applied—strange indeed!

Various jobs have been farmed out. Max Peterson has agreed to make the new outwales. Fred did the stripping and is fabricating and installing the new inwales. Craig Johnson is making new decks and seats.

Ted also included one of the original paddles purchased with the canoe. It appears to be cedar, as it is quite light. It too will be rejuvenated to the extent possible.

Stay tuned for updates. ⚡

9/6/2017

In July 1953 two college students, Jon Inskeep and E.L. 'Ted' Kemp jr. of McKeesport, Pa. drove to Canada with the intent to rent a canoe and paddle in Algonquin National Park. The intention was to rent a canoe, but all we found were waterlogged canoes which were, in our opinion, too heavy to portage.

In Peterborough we found the Peterborough canoe factory and purchased a new 16' canoe for about \$125.00 U.S.

We proceeded to the park area and put the canoe on a train and headed up the track to a suitable place to start. We canoed on a series of lakes and the Petawawa river.

The water was low that year, requiring longer portages and shallow waters for paddling.

After we completed college Jon Inskeep headed west and I kept the canoe. It was used by me at Yough dam, the Youghiogheny river and Deep Creek Lake.

Te Kemp

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ted Kemp'.

The origin story of the latest Three Rivers Chapter project canoe.



A close-up of our chapter's new project canoe, **donated by Ted Kemp.**



Book Review

by Mark Zalonis

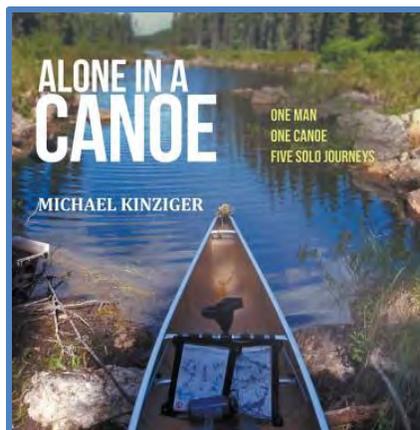
Alone in a Canoe, by Michael Kinziger

Our chapter librarian and occasional book reviewer, Mark Zalonis, has found another gem for our reading enjoyment.

In 2009, Mike Kinziger retired from his position as Associate Professor of Outdoor Education at the University of Idaho. He was 62. He wanted to do some wilderness paddling, and he wanted to do it solo. He wanted to avoid well-traveled routes, travel at his own pace, and do it in chunks of three to five weeks. He chose four western Ontario provincial parks: Opasquia, Woodland Caribou, Wabakimi, and Quetico. He kept a daily

journal of his trips, which forms the basis of his book *Alone in a Canoe*.

The book begins with Mike describing some basic facts about why and how he decided to make these five solo canoe trips. Then he quickly launches into the trip journal of his five-week 2009 Woodland Caribou trip at the age of 62. Because he intentionally chose routes where he would meet few or no other canoeists, he met none. He also



encountered some rather difficult portages.

Being of the age before digital devices were common, he relied primarily on map and compass. He did take a GPS, SPOT, and a Kindle. The GPS was for help navigating; the SPOT was to reassure his family at home with his position and well-being; and the Kindle was for reading amusement. (I leave a further explanation of these devices to the reader's general knowledge of our modern world or to reading Mike's explanation in his book.) He chose not to use the GPS much, if at all, preferring to rely on his experience with map and compass. He was disappointed to find that his solar charger did not seem able to charge his camera or Kindle batteries. He regretted not bringing a book.

Muddy, difficult-to-locate portages and windy lakes were his portion, as were glass-like lakes and beautiful sunsets.

Mike's journal descriptions provide a daily taste of the delights and trials of a solo trip in the wilderness. Muddy, difficult-to-locate portages and windy lakes were his portion, as were glass-like lakes and beautiful sunsets. The five solo trips—two in Woodland Caribou, one in Wabakimi, one in Opasquia, and one in Quetico—while he was between 62 and 69 years old acquaint the reader with these beautiful Canadian provincial parks.

Toward the end of the book, Mike provides a short autobiography in the guise of his “Living Obituary.” Then he gives some insights from the trips. The reader will recognize that he has read most of them already in the daily journal entries. The book ends with food and gear lists, and the best advice one can give to any canoeist: “Make good decisions! Be organized!”

This is a new book published in 2017 and is a pleasant read for someone who wants to learn something about solo canoeing and the four provincial parks. ☩

Gifford Pinchot Mini-Assembly

Seventeen of our members made the trek to Harrisburg, Pa. for the annual Columbus Day weekend mini-assembly. We were blessed with excellent weather and enjoyed the chance to visit with our friends from the Delaware Valley, Susquehanna, and Upper Chesapeake chapters.

In their travels toward home in Minnesota, Kathy and Fred Campbell came by to join us and to pick up the sailing canoe they won at last summer’s WCHA auction. They were the lucky bidders for our project canoe but had no way to carry it. Craig Johnson brought it to the mini-assembly, and many hands loaded it on their vehicle for the long trip.

We were all hoping to see the canoe sail on the lake, but, alas, Kathy and Fred had not brought the sailing gear, which they had taken home after the assembly. ☩



Kathy and Fred Campbell, ready to **head home with their sailing canoe**, restored by our chapter. They had placed the winning bid at the WCHA Assembly in July.

A Gift from our Resident Poet Laureate

Those of you who are acquainted with member Al Hasis know that, in addition to being an avid canoe man, he loves to read and write poetry. Al recently sent the following note:

“After many years I finally made the plunge and recorded the ‘Pictures of the Near North’ remembrance poem. You might remember that I read it once at a club event.

Thanks for keeping me informed as to club and friends’ adventures and news. Is it possible to achieve a canoe shaped like a 16-foot OTCA, with similar paddling characteristics, and have a weight closer to 45/50 lbs.? Just spent time at the Raccoon State Park lodge paddling my OTCA. Great paddling but about killed myself every time I launched or took it to the car and tried to reload it. Even getting it off the car was a killer.

So good luck with getting the poem to play. It runs almost 8 minutes. This is a distilling of 25

wilderness trips into the ‘Near North’ of Canada: family and many Scouting trips after training the boys, girls and sometimes parents.”

Copy and past this link, hit Play, and enjoy! ☩

https://www.icloud.com/attachment/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcvws.icloud-content.com%2FB%2FAYus468WP796-uJwELTJhj4Dh3NNAU_W-CdxDI7EJ99-n8Sk-0hajLRw%2F%24%7Bf%7D%3Fo%3DApZx8wuYZftK0KenDiYYhD_40tFstP-knITyWN-oOa0v%26v%3D1%26x%3D3%26a%3DBfDcvi92gYTiA4IwPwEA_wHIAP8K2Gy4%26e%3D1510775153%26k%3D%24%7Buk%7D%26fl%3D%26r%3D0F65EB9F-68E1-4EDC-85BA-6AC1A187DE65-1%26ckc%3Dcom.apple.largeattachment%26ckz%3DD858F40F-CF28-4CB8-B7A9-77BC660E0141%26p%3D37%26s%3D6j2sZVqm-ipDtpvC2RmjJiHeX6M&uk=Kqvk8miVbI-qdh81Y3EFIQ&f=A1%20Hasis%20Poem%20R1.mp3&sz=8141636