



THE KANSAS PADDLER

KCKA WEBSITE
www.kansascanoe.org

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GET OUT AND PADDLE!

Winter must end one of these days. Will you be looking for some paddling opportunities? Get out your calendar and make room for some KCKA activities.

The following list is a good start for paddling events statewide. You will find everything from river cleanups around Manhattan and Wichita, to educational sessions, kayak fishing, and the Spring and Fall Rendezvous.

Make your plans now to attend one of these events, or volunteer to lead an activity of your own. These events are also listed on the KCKA website:

www.kansascanoe.org.



2009 KCKA EVENT SCHEDULE

Ozark River Float

When: Mar 15 – 18 2009 Where: Ozarks
 Description: See page 13 for trip report

Ozark WW Float Class II (Big Piney Cr, AR)

When: Mar 27 – 29 2009 Where: Big Piney Cr, AR
 Description: See page 4 for pictures

Tandem Canoe Instructional Class - Manhattan, KS

When: Saturday, Apr 4, 2009 Where: Manhattan, KS
 Description: The tandem canoe class will provide an introduction to canoeing for the novice paddler. No previous experience is necessary. This will be a fun day of paddling.
 Contact Mick O'Shea

2009 KCKA EVENT SCHEDULE (continued)

Arkansas River (Day Float) - Annual pre-RIVERFEST Cleanup

When: Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10 AM -12 Noon Where: Downtown Wichita

Description: Annual pre-RIVERFEST river cleanup. Meet at the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot for directions and supplies. Free cookout after the event, sponsored by Cargill.

Kansas River (Day Float) - Annual Cleanup Trip

When: Sunday, May 3, 2009 Where: Manhattan Area

Description: Annual river cleanup

KCKA Spring Rendezvous - Elk City Reservoir

When: Jun 5 – 7 2009 Where: Elk City Reservoir

See page 7 for details

Fishing Lakes Recreational Trip - Cowley & Butler Counties

When: Saturday, Jun 20, 2009 Where: Cowley & Butler Counties

Description: Plan to camp Friday night and begin fishing Cowley County lake at dawn. Shore lunch. Travel to Butler County lake and fish until dark. Kansas fishing license required. Details to follow.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) Trip

When: Jul 12 – 18 2009 Where: Northeastern Minnesota

Description: Located in Northeastern Minnesota, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) has a ~million acres of wilderness, with over 1,000 pristine lakes and streams, and over 1500 miles of canoe routes. It is considered by some as the most beautiful wilderness they have ever seen. National Geographic named it one of 50 Destinations of a Lifetime. In other words, a vacation you do not want to miss.



Colorado Novice WW Trip /

When: Jul 17 – 19 2009 Where: Colorado

Description: Contact Chris Collins for details

KCKA FALL RENDEZVOUS

When: To Be Determined Where: To Be Determined

	<p>The Midwest's Premier Paddle Sports Shop</p> <p>816-779-1195</p>
	<p>Sales Demonstration Instruction Trips</p> 



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



Kayak Fishing

By Dave Jones

Spring is biting and clawing its way through winter. Now is the time to start thinking about my favorite pastime – kayak fishing. I’ve spent a lot of time canoeing and have taught canoeing at summer camps. But the first time I got into a kayak, I thought to myself, “Why have I been canoeing all my life!”

I love to float the currents and fish; I love to float with the wind and fish. I read the stories the land and water tell me. I try to interpret the story of the exposed geology. Sometimes, I find myself laughing at the story – the cannabis forest on a Tuttle Creek Lake cove. I seek the harmony of quiet paddling into quiet waters. I just love to kayak fish.



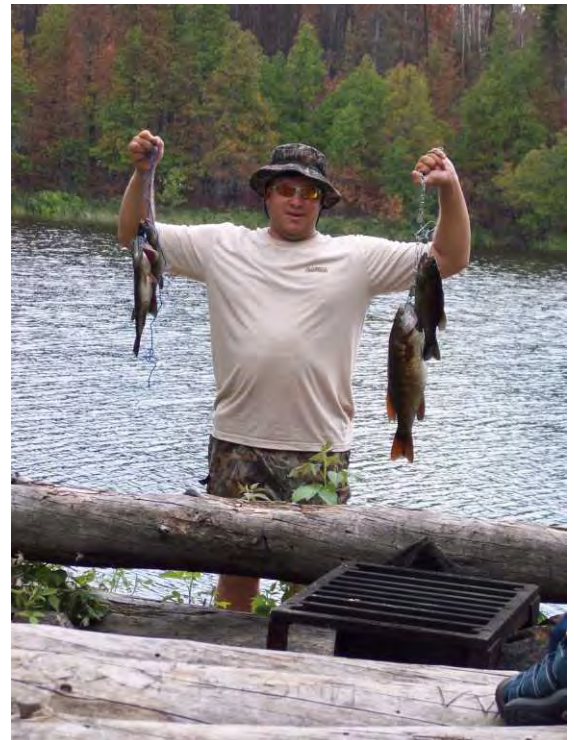
Dave Jones hauls in the BIG one!

Well, I guess that is dependent on how much money you want to spend! But really, there is only one basic need – rod holders. Of course, there are other common accessories such as an accessory bar, depth finder, anchor systems, and even live wells. Having said this though, I have a friend who fishes just fine from her sit-inside recreational kayak – simply dangling fishing poles from the cockpit.

So far, my experience is limited, but I have fished the Delaware River above Perry Reservoir, Tuttle Creek Lake (and Willow Lake as well as the River Pond Area), small fishing ponds (including

I’m a novice kayaker and began kayaking last summer. I didn’t know much about kayaks but knew I wanted a fishing kayak. So I turned to the omnipotent Internet to learn. And lo and behold, I found all the kayak fishing information I could digest. I “waded” through lots of information about kayak types and consumer reviews. My conclusion was to purchase a sit-on-top kayak specially rigged for fishing.

What does it mean to be rigged for fishing?



David Cobb brings home supper in the Boundary Waters after a productive kayak fishing outing.

those on Fort Riley), and the Gasconade River in Missouri. We've especially enjoyed the Delaware River putting in at a boat ramp at 150th st and taking out at 122nd street.

Fishing on Fort Riley ponds requires only a Kansas fishing license. The installation has 29 stocked lakes and ponds. Most are easily accessible. But remember! Fort Riley is an active military installation where live-fire takes place. Be sure and check all the rules and regulations for fishing on-post (<http://www.riley.army.mil/Recreation/Outdoor/Fishing/>).

Certainly the techniques and baits are as varied as any other fishing. I typically use ultra-light and light tackle. But when I go to the Delaware, I will throw in a medium action rod-and-reel. I've successfully used live bait, spinners, jigs, and other typical baits for the Midwest. Nothing particularly special. I especially like trolling (paddling fast) the Delaware and Tuttle during the spring for white bass. Occasionally we hit the wipers, and we often catch channel catfish and drum. I've learned that fishing is pretty good after a rain at the mouth of larger creeks flowing into the reservoirs. But my favorite is to fish for smallmouth bass in the Missouri rivers.

I'm looking forward to my kayaking time with the KCKA and what you all have to teach me about the rivers and streams in Kansas. But you can be sure that I'll be seeking out the place that holds the lunker!



Dave holds the one that didn't get away!

Member Photos

Pictures from a late March outing to the Mulberry River in Arkansas. See the full writeup in our next electronic Blitz.



Mick O'Shea - running Whoop n Holler rapids on the Mulberry River



Chris Collins & Mark Alft at the Little Mulberry access getting ready to launch

Canoe Safety and Education Corner

By Mick O'Shea
Safety and Education Chair

Canoeing is a wonderful family pastime. As with anything we do in life, heading out for a day of canoeing is not without its risks! All experts on paddle safety agree that forethought and planning are the key to a safe trip whether it be on a river or lake, or on flatwater or whitewater.

The common denominator in most fatalities on the water is lack of PFD (personal floatation device or lifejacket) and/or alcohol. The message here is clear: make sure you wear a coast guard approved PFD -it must be fully buckled and fitted correctly, and don't drink alcohol when you boat! For small children be sure the PFD is appropriately sized.

If you are new to canoeing or want more information, here are some ideas to start. Think about taking an introductory paddle class for the boat you are using. There are canoe and kayak classes offered by the KCKA periodically. You will learn good paddle technique and will get some useful safety tips as well. These tips should get you thinking about trip planning, appropriate layers to wear (might include a wetsuit or drysuit) for the water temperature/ weather, and other gear (e.g. spare paddle, boat floatation, food, drinking water) you might need.

For the whitewater paddler, consider a swiftwater rescue class. In the case of whitewater, getting in over your head tends to be a significant contributor to accidents. Compare your skill level to the section of river you are going to boat. A Google search will help you locate swiftwater rescue classes.

Also think about taking a first aid/CPR class. The Red Cross offers first aid classes in many local communities. A wilderness-first class would be especially valuable. A Google search will help you locate such courses. You will learn how to avoid and treat some common problems including hypothermia. This will be useful for rendering assistance to trip participants and will help you in building an appropriate medical kit for your trip.

Have a fun and safe time paddling.

Some useful websites:

KCKA website: <http://www.kansascanoe.org/>

American canoe association: <http://www.acanet.org/>

American red cross: www.RedCross.org then click on 'get trained'

American heart association: <http://www.americanheart.org/>



Mick O'Shea (right) and TJ Hittle teach canoe safety at a UFM class in Manhattan.

New!!

Pay KCKA Membership Fees with

PayPal

You are now able to pay your KCKA membership fees using PayPal. It is easy if you already have an account. If you don't have an account, you will be given the option to create one during the Checkout procedure.

If you are joining KCKA for the first time, you must complete the Membership Application and fill out and sign the Liability Waiver and mail both pages to KCKA. The address is on the Membership Application. These forms may be printed from the www.kansascanoe.org website. If you wish to pay through PayPal, indicate this preference on the application or send a note with the application. You will be contacted via e-mail once your application and waiver form are received. We would prefer to receive the application and waiver before you send us money via PayPal.

If you are renewing your membership after receiving a renewal reminder, you may return that reminder with a check or pay via PayPal. If the information on your renewal reminder is correct and you wish to pay via PayPal, go to www.kansascanoe.org, and choose the "Click here to Join or Renew Membership" tab on the left side of the home page, select KCKA Membership and add it to your cart. If desired, you may then add Kayak Chapter fees and/or a Conservation/Access Fund donation to your cart.

It's quick and easy. Give it a try!

Welcome New KCKA Members!

Darrel & Donna Drake	Emporia
Mark Hrubant	Wichita
Blake Taylor	El Dorado
Angela & Eric Laws	Manhattan
James Sanderson	Topeka
Kim Keller	Lawrence
Rita Jaramillo	Topeka
Michelle Thurman	Topeka
Sandy Kapka	Leawood
Kenneth Pilcher	Wichita
Christina Bolas	Lawrence
Ed Frey & BJ Wells	Wichita
David P. Jones	Manhattan
Linda Hardie	Topeka
Russell & Linda Kincaid	Silver Lake
Mark Alft	Wichita
Eric & April Prue	Paxico

KCKA Spring Rendezvous -- Elk City Reservoir

June 5-7

Dense oak-hickory woodlands meet rolling meadows of big bluestem and Indian grass at this striking 857-acre park located west of Independence in Montgomery County. The 4,500-acre Elk City Reservoir and 12,000-acre Elk City Wildlife Area adjacent to the park offer outdoors lovers ample room to pursue their pastimes.

A nationally recognized trails system invites visitors to take a closer look at the rich variety of flora and fauna in and around Elk City Reservoir. The Green Thumb Nature Trail is a one-mile loop that begins in the state park campground, and rewards hikers with a panoramic vista of the lake, framed by ash and oak trees. Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Nature Trail are also park attractions. The Elk River Hiking Trail is a scenic 15-mile route that begins at the west edge of the dam and ends near the U. S. Highway 160 bridge on the Elk River. Parking is available at the Memorial Overlook or state park trailheads.

Campgrounds at Elk City offer an array of well shaded sites appealing to recreational vehicle or primitive campers. Conveniently located restrooms and showers, swimming beach, group shelter, fishing piers, and three lane boat ramp offer popular amenities for park visitors.

The expansive Elk City Wildlife Area adjacent to the park offers a rich array of wild inhabitants. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, cottontail, fox and gray squirrels, and prairie chickens can be found here. Common furbearers include beaver, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, opossum, mink and muskrat.

Elk City Reservoir offers good to excellent fishing opportunities for channel catfish, white bass, crappie, flathead catfish, largemouth bass and saugeye. A handicapped access fishing dock is located in the state park.

You can find more information at http://www.stateparks.com/elk_city.html

Elk City Reservoir Location



What is the KCKA Conservation / Access Program?

By TJ Hittle

Remember looking at the membership form one day and seeing a check-box for the KCKA Conservation-Access Program? Did you ever wonder just exactly what was that program?

The short history is that this was primarily developed as a vehicle to help fund public river & lake accesses in Kansas. As the fund grows, its mission could expand.

Given the lack of public access in Kansas, the state could benefit in many ways with more public access to our many public waterways. When you read Dave Murphy's Paddling Kansas book, you learn there are many more than the three big rivers, the Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri Rivers within Kansas that are lands and waterways owned by "We the People".



Wamego public access. Funded, in part, by KCKA Conservation/ Access Program. Money well spent.

What has the KCKA Conservation-Access Program done thus far? In its short history, it has helped fund two public accesses on the Kansas River... one in St. George, KS, one in Wamego, KS. Contributions to the fund have slowed in recent months for obvious reasons, but many of us on the KCKA Board are optimistic that it will continue to grow. When you renew your KCKA membership, please consider a donation to the KCKA Conservation-Access Program.



**Kansas River
Canoe Co.**

and
Lawrence/Kansas City
KOA Kampground

1473 Hwy 40
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 842-3877
(800) 582-3708 res. only

Canoe and kayak
float trips on the
Delaware/Kansas
River



KANSAS

**WILDLIFE
& PARKS**



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&
BIKE**

804 MASSACHUSETTS 843-5000 LAWRENCE, KANSAS



OZARK ADVENTURES

Springfield, Missouri
417-889-6633



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

Spring Break 2009 -- Niangua River

By David Cobb

Have you ever wondered what a Physical Education teacher does over Spring Break? For the last five years, I have spent at least four of the nine days on the water. I am short on time during spring and fall due to coaching high school soccer at Wichita West High School. Spring Break is really the only time I have to get on the water.

This year, fellow KCKA member Blake Taylor and I traveled to Lebanon, Missouri to paddle and fish the Niangua River near the local trout hatchery at Bennett Springs. This is not the best place to float during the summer if you want a quiet, scenic float. In the summer season you can find more beer, boats, and yea than you can imagine, but in the spring and fall, it is one of the greatest scenic floats in Missouri .

I have traveled to this river for over thirty-five years and make every effort to paddle the Niangua River at least twice a year. As for anyone who paddles a certain river enough, it is interesting to see how floods and humans change the river over time.

We camped at Riverfront Campground near Bennett Springs. During the off season, you will have the one-hundred acre campground to yourself. We usually float the stretch of the river above Bennett Springs. Our put-in was at the Moon Valley access and we paddled about 10 miles back to our riverside campground.



Ready to go!

Blake caught several large mouth bass. I only caught a few goggle eye and a trout the second day. The weather was great with the days warm enough to wear a t-shirt. The evenings were cool enough to be happy around a campfire. I highly recommend paddling this area of Missouri, except on weekends!



Blake paddling at the Niangua put-in.



David Cobb and Blake Taylor starting down the Niangua River in Missouri.

2009 KCKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TJ Hittle - President & Kayak Chapter Director

Michelle Myers - President-Elect & Secretary

Don Varnau - Treasurer

David Cobb - Activities

Mick O'Shea - Safety-Education

Tom Grist - Newsletter

Richard Seaton - Director at Large

Libby Albers - Director at Large

Shirley Hess - Director at Large

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

KCKA Website
www.kansascanoe.org

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

To continue sending a newsletter listing statewide events, wide-ranging and informative articles on safety, training, classes, paddling tips, trip reports, photos, etc., we need all members to consider sending that information to the KCKA email address of kcka1975@cox.net. The more articles and information we get, the better our newsletter will be.

This year, in addition to this printed newsletter, we plan to send electronic updates two weeks prior to the Spring and Fall Rendezvous' and an electronic newsletter in November recapping the year's paddling season. Your story/photo/trip report, is needed to provide all KCKA members with timely, usable, interesting information.

Thanks,
Tom Grist, Newsletter Editor