

Vol. VI, No. 8

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

August 1970

NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY AUGUST 18, IN THE LYON'S DEN

MURRAY and JANE LYON, that is. 7524 Laytonia Drive, Gaithersburg, Md. For first timers ... you'd better keep these directions handy. It's a fascinating drive, but you'll never get there flying by the seat of your pants. Take beltway to 70S. Proceed north to Shady Grove Road exit (same as for Shady Grove theatre). Off service road from exit, make a LEFT turn, go past Kodak building (on your right). Turn RIGHT on Shady Grove Road (going east). Continue 1 mile to route 355, Frederick Pike traffic light intersection. Turn left, go to second stoplight at Summit Ave. Turn Right, go one-half mile, cross RR tracks. At traffic light turn right on Diamond Avenue, Rte. 124. Go about three miles to Md. Rte. 115, Muncaster Mill Rd. (note from Peases - you should have been following signs to Montgomery Air Park up until here). Turn right one-half mile to LAYTONIA sign on your right. The fifth house on the left is IT. House number is on mailbox at curb. Good luck, and here is your alternate plan: Call 926-8451 if you get Lost!

SPEAKING OF MEETINGS ...

Did you know that PVS needs new meeting places? If your home is available please let your Excom know. Some earlier volunteers have been "it" for quite a while. Since our meetings are largely social, we kind of hate to hire a hall, and it's fun to get to know one another "at home". However, investigations are afoot to secure a fire-hall, abandoned country club or haunted castle (if we can find a 'free' hall free) for a regular meeting place. Know of any???

SAILING ON A 3-MASTED SCHOONER APPEAL TO YOU?

Hurry on down to your nearest friendly tattoo parlour and get done up. Program chief DON COPE (with a little help and nagging from his friend PAT) is trying to snag Dean Worcester's 3-masted (at last count) schooner for the projected September Sailing Weekend. An afternoon of floating, cool libations, followed by a shore dinner and a midnight sail are in the plans. Skinny-dipping has not yet been officially sanctioned by the USEASDA*. Keep this affair in mind. *United States Eastern Amateur Skinny Dipping Association.

BON VOYAGE DORIS!

President DORIS HEGE takes off for four weeks in Europe this month. Ain't that a rotten break!

THE PVS SPLASH OF 1970 - by Aina Hertelis A Report of the Youghiogheny Raft Trip, July 18 & 19

Finally July 18 arrived and I was ready for the event, which in the last two years has become the highlight of my summer.

Saturday morning ROSEMARY AND TONI, MIKE, CHARLIE, and I were coasting over the mountains in Cumberland toward Western Pennsylvania. The first view of the Yok. River is very picturesque; it is very calm, blue, backed up by a dam, and surrounded by grassy beaches as it runs through the rolling countryside. Boating and water skiing seemed to be very popular. We enjoyed swimming in the clean water and picnicking on the beach.

Later in the day at the campgrounds we were joined by PAT and DON, and our three kayaking students HANK, MURRAY, and RON. (See Murray's report for their activities). Tents were pitched and dinners cooked and "guesses" were made as to how rough the river would be the following morning. Dr. John Newdorp (the trip leader) entertained and some forty SCWDC'ers with his colorful movie - 200 miles of his and Joe Lederle's white water experiences in a kayak on the Colorado River in Arizona. The movie well deserves the title "Survival of the Fittest". John and Joe deserve a medal for their stamina and skills. He also showed us a movie of a trip on the Youghiogheny from last summer. The Yok. seemed calm and tame compared to the Colorado -- almost a disappointment! But we changed our minds quickly as we paddled through the first cucumber rapids on Sunday morning. WOW! The big splashes really jumbled some of us inside and outside the rafts! So we braced ourselves for more over and through one rapid after another. Each one roaring more and splashier than the other. Many times sideways, a few times stern first. When bow first, riding over the white waters as in a roller-coaster, we had a feeling of being experts. All wild! Wet! - Exciting!

At the swimming rapids our sinuses were thoroughly flushed as we were floating in the river. It was fun with the river being high and having no obstacles or rocks in the way.

The water fights turned out to be almost an interminable affair as MIKE behaved like a King Neptune! He did not even spare his own raft. Mutiny! Pat, I am real sorry for all those gallons of cool Youghiogheny in your face while aiming at DON, HANK, and MURRAY! By the way, MURRAY, have you taken a shower or a bath recently? Frankly, the showers were quite refreshing - the day was sunny and hot - perfect to become a sponge!

All actions were well recorded by CHARLIE in a movie and in RON's photography. Both had privileges in the "press raft". A warning to RON - one day we'll catch you being out of focus also:

The trip was well guided and supervised. Even a mishap when nonswimmers got washed overboard was not considered a serious one. At one rapid there was a raft with just one sailor left aboard.

I can wholeheartedly recommend that all PVS'ers should sign up for this event next summer. You won't be making a mistake!

JULY EXCOM MEETING NEWS

A lengthy discussion was held on the problem of dual PVS/SCWDC memberships and the payment of USEASA dues, Hopefully this will be settled by the August 25 Excom meeting. Meanwhile, members, are urged to pay their PVS dues <u>immediately</u>. On questions regarding payment of SCWDC dues, contact KEITH LYON. (See his report elsewhere).

BRSC President, Earl Deets, and Warren Gilbertson have requested time to appear at a PVS meeting to discuss SKI-O-REE. The Excom agreed to invite them to do just that, at a later meeting.

Next Excom meeting August 25, at JIM KEY's new residence, 11174 Saffold Way, Reston, Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES FROM KEITH LYON

Keep those cards and letters coming in folks. About half of you have paid up and will have nice shiny new cards waiting for you at the next meeting.

If you've misplaced your June TOOT (which had the renewal form in it) don't bother hunting for it. We've decided it's not needed ... just send "money". If your address or phone number needs updating, enclose the proper information. Also, enclose a note designating whether you are, or are not, a member of SCWDC.

There is a snag in handling dual memberships with SCWDC and payment of USEASA dues. Until this is straightened out, your renewal applications to SCWDC will be returned to you, if you do not remit the FULL fee. Actually you have until the end of October (Halloween!) to submit your application to SCWDC, so the problem should be resolved well before then. Please take care of your PVS dues immediately, though!

NEW MEMBERSHIP LISTS...

Are on the way. Meanwhile, you might like to know that MARIANNE LEHR is now MRS. GRAYSON ADAMS, 3417 University Blvd. West, Kensington, Md. 20795.

THE TELEPHONE TREE IS GROWING ...

GLADE FLAKE to call new member MARVIN STEPHENS. DON MCBRIDE to call new members BOB and GAIL GELL.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? ...

	Tennis at Hains Point
	Beach and water skiing party (Dewey)
	Meeting - MURRAY LYON's home
September ?	Sailing weekend
	Meeting (place to be announced by Aug. meeting)
	Lobster feast
November ?	Hike and camping weekend
November 17	Meeting

"TO HELL AND BACK IN A KAYAK" - by Murray Lyon

Does kayaking in the Youghiogheny, (Yok-a-gay-nee) beat canoeing on the Shenandoah? It does if you don't mind being both very scared and very wet! Ask HANK THOMAS. He and RON FETT and MURRAY LYON had a go at white-water boating via John Newdorp's popular summer outing, courtesy SCWDC.

The four-hour trip to Ohiopyle, Penna. took us through Garrett Co., Md. on US 40 near WISP. On the way we discovered a motel that has its own ski hill -- a glade with a rope tow.

RON was the only one of us who had confirmed space for the kayak trip, but at John Newdorp's flipchart briefing session HANK and MURRAY lucked out and were able to take over the places of a couple of "no-shows". Nevertheless, true to some ancient PVS tradition the three of us managed to miss the shuttle bus to the departure point a few miles up-river from Ohiopyle. When we finally got there, the main group had started down the river half an hour earlier, leaving us laggards in the care of John's delightful daughter Kathy, who undertook to teach us some of the basics of kayaking. She did a good job, we are still living. Kathy led us down the river through rapids, "haystacks", "pillows" and eddies to a rendezvous with the rest of our group. Here we found about 30 adventurers, attired like us in life jackets and hard hats, paddling back and forth across the river in one-man inflatable kayaks.

The river ran swiftly here between rocks as big as a Volkswagen and looked a bit fearsome to us as we practiced maneuvering our boats in the fast-moving current. (We had little inkling of what we would have to contend with before the end of the day).

Shortly we began moving down the river, learning to backpaddle, make "eddy turns" and "ferry" as we went. we had started just after lunch and by 3 o"clock or so, we had descended about 5 miles of the "YOK" and were back at Ohiopyle. Here our guide offered us a chance to try our skills on "THE LOOP", a wild and wooly section of the river extending about 2 miles below Ohiopyle. We were cautioned that we should expect plenty of white water and a rousing ride! We would need to use everything we had learned, and still be prepared for a hard time!

This little speech caused 8 or 10 people to drop out right there. So we paddled on down to the portage - you carry your own kayak around the falls at Ohiopyle. Here again our guide laid on his last and most impressive briefing, describing in vivid details the huge rocks, giant waterfalls, and the awesome "hydraulics" which awaited us downstream, fully capable of chewing up unskilled tyros who made mistakes! (As I found out later, he was absolutely correct). He got 2 more drop-outs! those of us who were left moved across the portage and if we trembled a bit as we put our boats back in the water below the falls, we attributed it to being chilled, (temperature 80° F.) or to portaging the heavy kayak, (25 lb. ?) <u>anything</u> but fear; nobody could <u>dare</u> be afraid now! Well, we started Jown through "Entrance Rapid" and it was wild and weely and <u>fun</u>. Unfortunately HANK THOMAC got nailed right off the bat because somebody else (not HANK) didn't know how to handle his boat and got caught in a "hydraulic". HANK was right behind and piled up on the misbegotten kayaker. They didn't upset, (that comes later) but did have to get out and walk. FETT and LYON lucked out and got through with plenty of difficulty, but no upsets.

We went through several more rapids, each seemingly larger, swifter and more tortuous than the last until finally, on Cucumber Rapids, HANK bought it again and turned completely over and came out of his kayak! He was OK though, and crawled back aboard ready for the next one. And the next one was ready and waiting for him! As he tells it, "The bow went down, the stern went up, there was a sudden chilly feeling as I was surrounded by a cloud of bubbly white water; one thing led swiftly to another and I found myself in the water!" By now the rescue operation was well practiced and soon we had HANK back aboard and were on our way again. There were several more rapids, each one a new and thrilling plunge into the unknown. We rode the river the next day in rafts but it wasn't quite the same as being alone in a small boat upstream of a roaring rapid and not really knowing what lies ahead of you.

For a real challenge, try a kayak trip on a white-water river!

A SUPPER SUCCESSFUL MEETING

The July steak cookout (on Saturday for a change) at ROY and MALDA ELRODS' was a smash! It attracted a good crowd and several guests. AINA HERTELIS' mother-in-law was there, and new members BOB and GAIL GELL, as well as lon-time-no-see DICK KING. We welcomed Shirley Duncan back from Australia. MAX BUNNELL lived up to his reputation with GINNY LARSON's very attractive Norwegian guest. (She was beautiful as well as 'squeezable').

ROY and BOB manned the outdoor grills. The aromas drove the group to a concerted attack on heaping platters of baked potatoes and huge bowls of crisp salad. The steaks more than lived up to expectations -- and some true gourmets at the table under the trees even broke out French wine.

We moved inside the ELRODS' air-conditioned recreation room just off the patio for the short business meeting. Highlight of that was a great letter from three Austrian entrepeneurs who've planned an "endless winter" of two years' skiing, from Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego. The three wondered if we might like to have them as guests at a future meeting. LARRY PEASE allowed as how he agreed anybody that enterprising really deserved to be put up for a night or two by the membership (which was divined as the reason for their generous offer). Then it was back to beer and sociability for all. Thanks, ROY and MALDA, for letting us enjoy your beautiful setting and gracious hospitality.

SCOOP! BROOKE ARMAT TO TAKE PHILADELPHIA BRIDE

Debonair bachelor and PVS treasurer C. BROOKE ARMAT joins the hooked generation!