



## KANSAS PRAIRIE PACKERS BASECAMP NEWSLETTER

BASECAMP is published by the Kansas Prairie Packers Association, Inc., at Topeka, KS. Membership in Prairie Packers is open to individuals and families interested in hiking, backpacking, canoeing, bicycling, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities.

## NOVEMBER, 2007

### Officers and Committee Chairs

<b>President</b>	Kate Sieverson 817.7080
<b>Vice-president</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Dunford davedunford@sbcglobal.net 234.4667
<b>Programs</b>	Mary Glanville mglanville@sbcglobal.net 234.4667
<b>Activities</b>	Shari LaRue shari@rockytopacres.org 836.3167

### Board Members

Chuck Bland	633.4936
Jo Chen	785.793.2113
Jan Hamilton	633.9122
Terese Hamilton	633.9122
Mel Heflin	785.843.7299
Richard Johnson	587.8731
John Stambaugh	862.6621
Teresa Stambaugh	862.6621
Jon Ware	266.2144
Rosemary Ware	266.2144

### Newsletter Editor/Web Page

Mike LaRue 11300 S Stanley Rd  
Overbrook, KS. 66524 836.3167  
mdlarue@rockytopacres.org

[www.prairiepackers.org](http://www.prairiepackers.org)

### MONTHLY MEETING

#### LOCATION

Pizza Hut, 10th & Topeka  
Board Meeting 5:30 pm  
Visit and Eat 6:15 pm  
Meeting 7:00 pm

### NOVEMBER 14, 2007

#### Program

### Fall Backpack

#### Presented by

**The backpackers themselves**



# ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## November 14

6:00 PM Board Meeting; 7:00 Monthly Meeting, Pizza Hut 10<sup>th</sup> & Topeka Blvd, Topeka

## December 8

Soup Hike — John Stambaugh 862.6621

## December 12

Annual Meeting and Christmas Potluck at Lake Shawnee

## January 1

New Years Day Hike

## TRIP REPORTS

Note: Lots of trip photos but will publish in the Dec issue.

Canoe Night at Osage County  
Submitted by John Stambaugh

Seven people attended the canoe night and potluck dinner on the evening of September 29. It had rained in the morning and drizzled in the afternoon but by late afternoon the moisture had stopped.

We did not get as much paddling in as I had hoped because of darkness but we had a nice variety of food and had a good time sitting around the campfire afterwards.

Indian Cave Car Camp  
Submitted by Kate Sieverson

Well, once again the weather forecast was not in our favor. However, as most of us have learned over the years, you can't let the weather influence your trips too much because you can't really predict the weather. But, the weathermen were right on this time. For John, Teresa, Gary, Betty and Kate who drove up on Friday, you couldn't ask for a better afternoon. The sun was shining and it was not hot. We chose our spot and set up camp. After settling in, we went for a nice hike before dinner. After our invigorating hike, we were hungry and headed back to camp to fix dinner. John bought some firewood and we had a nice fire. We sat around the campfire until around 8:30 or 9:00 pm when it started to sprinkle so we headed off to bed. It stopped a little while later but I think I was just gathering force. Later that night there was thunder, lightning, and buckets and buckets of rain. It did not stop for one minute the entire night. In the

morning, it was decided to throw in the soggy towel and head home. But first, we had to stop for breakfast. So, John, Teresa and Kate drove to Falls City, NE for breakfast and a drying out period. Then drove home ...in the rain.

### River Float on the Kansas

Submitted by Kate Sieverson

Ten people showed up at the Topeka launch early Saturday morning hoping it was not going to be the weekend that was predicted by the weathermen. It was a little chilly and there was a breeze. After shuttling vehicles between Topeka and Lawrence, Mike and Shari, John and Teresa, Dave and Mary, Alona and her daughter Jessica, and Ray and Kate set off down river. There was a pretty good breeze blowing but Saturday was fairly uneventful. Ray and Kate nearly tipped over when a sudden gust of wind caught them by surprise. But Ray was acrobatic enough to keep the canoe afloat (I did not see it since I was in the front of the canoe preparing to swim). We floated the majority of the distance on Saturday (16 miles, I believe) hoping for an easy day on Sunday. After finally deciding on a sandbar, we set up camp and had plenty of firewood to choose from. We had a nice campfire and the sky was clear. We were hoping this was not a false sense of security in predicting the weather for the morning. A chance of rain was in the forecast, so everyone was prepared for the worst. The wind picked up during the night but there was a full moon and clear skies. Sunday started out as a beautiful day...hardly a cloud in the sky. Did we luck out and beat the rain? We took our time breaking camp and anticipated a fairly nice float into Lawrence. However, the wind was strong at times and the experienced canoers were anticipating the difficulty of the sections heading south. Unlucky for the inexperienced because we didn't know what we were in for. There were a few stretches that were extremely rough to get through. At times, it seemed as though no matter how hard we paddled, we were not going anywhere. When we reached the coal plant outside Lawrence, the wind was blowing coal dust over the river...everything had a fine layer of black dust on it (I think I have black lung). As we approached the Lawrence launch, the wind picked up, the sky turned an angry gray, and it was questionable whether we were going to beat the weather. The waves were growing in height and everyone was paddling as hard and as fast as they could. We all made it but it was a close call. The wind was blowing hard enough to push our canoes up the launch with all our gear still inside. After getting canoes, kayak, and gear loaded, we headed into Lawrence for a nice meal and reflection of our trip. If we had left the sandbar five minutes later, we may still be on that river trying to get to Lawrence or else the wind would have blown us back to Topeka.

### **IMPORTANT**

If you want to be an officer or serve on the Board, contact President Kate! We will vote on officers and board members at the December potluck.

### **DUES ARE DUE**

Another year and we need to collect dues to get the newsletter printed and sent to you, among other things. Send your dues to Dave Dunford or bring them to the next meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State,  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Outdoor Interests \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application and check for \$20.00 to:

Dave Dunford  
2115 Harrison St  
Topeka, KS 66611-1127

Please make submissions for the December newsletter so they are received by **Nov 24**.

If you have moved, please send your new address to Mike LaRue, 11300 S Stanley Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524.

Prairie Packers Basecamp  
11300 S Stanley Rd  
Overbrook, KS 66524

