



Member Handbook

(rev April 2023)

**Serving the paddling community of the
Chattanooga area and beyond since 1967**



Table of Contents

Our Mission	3
The Club's Primary Activities	3
2022-2023 TVCC Officers	4
How to Contact TVCC	4
To Learn What the Club is Doing	5
List of Key Club Annual Events	5
Good Club Information to Know	7
TVCC Constitution	9
TVCC Bylaws	11
Brief History of TVCC	18
More Timeline History of TVCC	18
TVCC Lifetime Members (Last Update: 5 Dec 2022)	20



TENNESSEE VALLEY CANOE CLUB

Our Mission

The Tennessee Valley Canoe Club brings together those interested in canoeing, kayaking, and related activities; increases the knowledge, safety, and appreciation of paddle sports for those who are interested; and supports conservation and preservation of recreational waterways. Membership is open to persons of all ages. Both families and singles are welcome.

The Club's Primary Activities:

- Whitewater, flatwater kayak, SUP, and canoe training
- Whitewater & flatwater river trips for all skill levels
- Water safety & rescue training
- Extended canoe & camping trips
- Annual & monthly meetings
- Community service

2022-2023 TVCC Officers

President	Dian Lawhon	President@tvccpaddler.com
Vice President	Steve Lamb	VicePres@tvccpaddler.com
Secretary	Anthony Crutcher	Secretary@tvccpaddler.com
Treasurer	BG Smith	Treasurer@tvccpaddler.com
Communications	John Hubbard	Communications@tvccpaddler.com
Webmaster / IT Admin	Chris Davis	Webmaster@tvccpadler.com
Conservation	David Riall	Conservation@tvccpaddler.com
Safety	Rob Theurer	Safety@tvccpaddler.com
Training	Carl Schoonover	Training@tvccpaddler.com
Flatwater/River Running Cruisemaster	Eric Burnett	River1@tvccpaddler.com
Whitewater 2/3 Cruisemaster	Stacy Stone	Whitewater2@tvccpaddler.com
Whitewater 3/4 Cruisemaster	Steve Courtney	Whitewater3@tvccpaddler.com
Overnighter Cruisemaster	Ben Johnson/Dave Leigh	Overnight@tvccpaddler.com
Standup Paddleboards Cruisemaster	Liz Young	SUP@tvccpaddler.com
Competition	Cay Vogel	Competition@tvccpaddler.com
Social	Beth Johnson	Social@tvccpaddler.com
Quartermaster	Vacant	QM@tvccpaddler.com

How to Contact TVCC

By USPS: TVCC, PO Box 23772, Chattanooga, TN 37722-3722

By Email: ExComm@tvccpaddler.com

To reach Executive Board

Info@tvccpaddler.com

For general questions or comments

By phone: (423) 708-5460

Normal response is within a few hours

To Learn What the Club is Doing

We have the following resources:

Website tvccpaddler.com

This is the main source of public information about the club and is your portal to view the club's calendar of monthly events. Information available there includes:

- Upcoming events and issues of importance to the membership
- A list of club sponsored paddling trips with details and registration information
- Club information including key policies and club Bylaws
- Membership “Join” and “Renewal” links and ability to Update your Profile
- Link to this Member Handbook for future reference
- Information and registration for Paddle School, Rescue Rodeo, Ocoee race and other major events
- Contact information for the Club and its Officers
- Important safety information and Trip Leader guidance
- Newsletters and publication archives

Club web calendar <https://tvccpaddler.com/events/>

Club sponsored events, paddling trips, and meetings are found on the calendar. You can look ahead for events in future months. The Board members keep this calendar up to date.

TVCC Newsletter – *The Tattler Paddler*

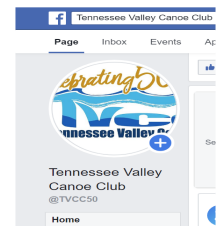
The newsletter is published monthly in an electronic, online format. Special editions are published as required. Members may provide stories and other content to the newsletter editor to appear in the next newsletter. Send your items to [Communications@tvccpaddler.com/](mailto:Communications@tvccpaddler.com) Read the newsletter to learn what is happening in the club, and what members have been doing paddling on the water. The newsletter is emailed to your email address of record.

TVCC is on Facebook

Our official Facebook page name is [Tennessee Valley Canoe Club](https://www.facebook.com/TennesseeValleyCanoeClub). Like us and follow our activities. [facebook.com/TVCC50/](https://www.facebook.com/TVCC50/)

TVCC is on Instagram

Our official Instagram page name is [tvcc_paddling](https://www.instagram.com/tvcc_paddling). Like us and follow our activities. [instagram.com/tvcc_paddling/](https://www.instagram.com/tvcc_paddling/)



Unofficial Facebook Group – TVCC Kayaking

This is a private, closed group where club members and many non-club people post TVCC and local boating information; share boating conversations, and post “for sale” ads for gear. It was founded by TVCC members, though today is independent and not an official “voice” or communication channel of TVCC. So it is an '*unofficial*' club Facebook group, but it is a probably the best place to find jump trips, deals on gear, or learn the latest river info. Ask and you can join. [TVCC Kayaking](https://www.facebook.com/groups/tvcckayaking)



TVCC Member Directory

The TVCC Member Directory is updated continuously. It is available online at the TVCC website.

List of Key Club Annual Events

TVCC Board Meetings

A monthly Board meeting is typically held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm, usually at the Outdoor Chattanooga facility in Coolidge Park. Meetings are open and Club members are invited to attend and learn what the Board does. Date and location are published in the calendar found at the website address <http://tvccpaddler.com/events/>.

TVCC Spring and Fall Meetings

These meetings are usually held on a Saturday in May and September.

The Spring meeting is a social gathering and sets the stage for paddle school, Summer training, and gives members a chance to get to know each other. The Fall meeting traditionally wraps up the year just prior to the Ocoee Race. At the meeting, changes to the Bylaws are voted on and new Officers are elected for the following year. See the newsletter and club web calendar for details and what other club events will happen before the meeting. We typically have some kind of party and campover at the meeting.



TVCC Paddle School

This is our signature event of the year. It is held the **first** weekend after Memorial Day. The Paddle School is still going strong since 1969. Yes, really it started way back then. It starts Friday evening and goes through Sunday afternoon. Club instructors teach students paddling skills with on-water training Saturday and Sunday **on the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers**. We teach whitewater, recreational kayak, stand up paddleboarding (SUP),



single and tandem canoe (open boat) and offer a kids club as well. It is based at Adventures Unlimited campground. We have **potluck dinner and live music Friday evening along with an Outfitting Tent**. You can purchase a catered dinner for Saturday. An **Auction** of donated paddling goodies and other great items is held after the dinner. Watch for information and registration forms in the newsletter, on our website, and on Facebook pages. To continue the training, we schedule training trips each weekend of the summer **ending in September on the Ocoee River**.

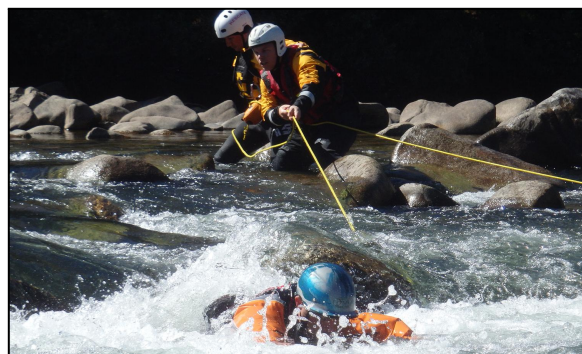
Rescue Rodeo

This event is typically held the last Saturday of July and is now more than 20 years old. This is a beginner to intermediate training of white water/swift water paddling safety and river rescue skills in a fun format on land in the morning and on the Hiwassee River in the afternoon. A party with food follows the on-river training.



Swift Water Rescue Course

This is a two-day course for club members to learn advanced whitewater safety and swift water rescue techniques. It is presented by TVCC Team Safety, comprising ACA trained and certified swift water rescue instructors and our most experienced paddlers. The course adheres to the ACA Swift Water Rescue Training curriculum. Graduates receive an ACA SWR Certification upon completion. Registration is required as the number of participants that can be accommodated is limited. We try to have two events each year, one in May and one in August, river flows and weather permitting.



Annual TVCC Ocoee Race

A race from the Ocoee River commercial put-in at Dam #2 to Powerhouse for club members, is held annually on the second Saturday of October. There are a number of different categories, including a raft category. This race attracts a large number of elite men and women boaters from across the Southeast. The rest of us decent to good boaters can be in the other categories including long boat, short boat, open boat, hand paddle, and duo. There are men's, woman's, junior's and mixed categories. You are sure to enjoy competing against your friends and your own best time! A party and award ceremony follows the race benefiting a local charity determined by the Board.



Annual Holiday Party

This is a fun event held in early December.

Club Sponsored Paddling Trips

TVCC sponsors year-round paddle trips for whitewater (beginner and more advanced separate trips), flatwater on easy creeks and lakes as well as more challenging Class I rivers and overnight paddling trips of 1 night to over 8 nights. Each trip is led by an experienced trip leader with several similarly experienced support boaters. The trips are always fun and relaxing social events but you are guaranteed to pick up tips and techniques from the other members that join you. These trips are posted on the club's website calendar and announced in the newsletter as well. It is important to register and stay in contact with the Trip Leader to ensure you receive late changes due to weather, water levels, or other unforeseen situations.



Supporting Our Community

TVCC sponsors a number of events to help the community and our rivers, such as the annual Tellico River Cleanup and Tennessee River Rescue efforts. TVCC also sponsors regular cleanup efforts at Audubon Acres. TVCC provides safety support boats for the swim part of multiple Summer triathlons, all Chattanooga area Ironman events, the Big Brother Big Sister Rafting event, the annual Appalachian Council Girl Scout Raft Race, and more. All these events are on the club calendar and described in the newsletter and where you can learn how to join in and help. Volunteers make the club successful in these events! We thank all of you!



Good Club Information to Know

Membership

Your membership is good for 12 months from the date you paid. Membership application (new or renewal) is found at the club website. Use the online form and then pay on-line with your credit or debit card.

Rock Creek discount policy (as of April 2023)



Rock Creek gives current TVCC club members a 10% discount off the normal price. The discount does not apply to boats, bikes, and electronics, or sale items. It does apply to all the things normally used in paddling the boat (and other outdoor gear)! Just stop by or call to ask. TVCC provides

Rock Creek a list of our members for this purpose on a quarterly basis. For a better deal consider becoming a Rock Creek Rewards Program member for \$20. If you are ready to take the plunge on a boat or maybe an electric bike or any other high value purchases, The RC Rewards Program provides a 15% discount across the board on all Rock Creek gear! The Riverside store phone number is 423-265-1836. The Ocoee store number is 423-338-1075.

Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) discount policy (as of January 2017)



TVCC members are eligible for a 10% discount off any full-price items in the NOC store - all gear, clothing and footwear (including paddling, camping, hiking, casual, etc). The only exceptions are boats and sale items. For sale items, members will receive the sale price, which is lower than the 10% club discount. TVCC members can use this discount at the NOC store along the

Nantahala River, as well as our stores in Ocoee & Gatlinburg, TN and Asheville, NC (inside The Grove Park Inn). TVCC club discounts are also eligible at our online store - store.noc.com.

Enter code "TVCC" at checkout to receive the discount.

Outdoorplay.com discount policy (as of June 2018)



Outdoorplay.com is an online discount outfitting/gear supply store. They offer TVCC a standing 10% discount as follows: Please use **coupon code LC10**.

This can be used directly through the website, as well as on phone orders. Please note the coupon will not work with boats, boards, sale/closeout items, and select vendors. If anyone ever has questions on exactly what applies,

just give Outdoorplay.com a call toll-free at 800.994.4327, and they will make sure to get you the best deal possible. <https://www.outdoorplay.com/>

American Whitewater (as of April 2023)



TVCC is a Lifetime Member of American Whitewater. This allows you to join AW at a discount.

TVCC regularly supports the work of American Whitewater (AW) with a donation. As an Affiliate Club, TVCC members receive a \$10 savings for their individual AW memberships. Choose the **\$25 - Affiliate Club**

Member option to take advantage of this benefit. Go to the AW website to join: [American Whitewater Membership](https://membership.americanwhitewater.org/s/lightningmembership) (<https://membership.americanwhitewater.org/s/lightningmembership>)

TVCC Liability Insurance

TVCC purchases insurance which covers all TVCC members for the year. **This ONLY covers members.** Consequently, only members can participate in TVCC events. There is no option for non-members to participate in TVCC events. Members will be asked to electronically sign an Annual Waiver associated with the insurance policy prior to participating in any TVCC event.

One Time Guest Membership (as of February 2023)

If you have a friend that is interested in paddling but hesitant to join TVCC tell them about our One Time Guest (OTG) membership option. The OTG allows a person to join TVCC for a 7-day trial for free -- we do not ask for a credit card or require cancellation later! It's really free! This allows a person to "try before they buy." A OTG can attend any normal TVCC event except Paddle School, Ocoee Race, SWR course, Rescue Rodeo, or a special paddle training clinic. This option ensures the person is covered by our liability insurance. To take advantage of the OTG membership, click on the ***Join the Club-New Members Only*** button on the TVCC website.

Membership Level: *

- ☐ Individual Join
- ☐ Family Join
- ☒ One Time Guest



Photo credit: Karl Whipp, 2017

Tennessee Valley Canoe Club

TVCC Constitution

TVCC CONSTITUTION (1968, Revised 4/11/96, 7/13/2006, 12/23/2008, 9/11/2010, 12/13/2013, 9/9/2017)

I. NAME

The name of this club shall be called "Tennessee Valley Canoe Club".

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Club shall be to bring together those who are interested in canoeing, kayaking, and related activities; to increase the knowledge, safety and appreciation of paddle sports; and to support conservation and preservation of recreational waterways.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Persons eligible for membership shall be those interested in the purposes for which this organization was formed. There will be one vote per membership. Honorary non-voting memberships shall be available at the discretion of the officers.

IV. OFFICERS

- A. Executive officers of the Club are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Other Board Officers are Assistant Vice President, Safety Chair, River Conservation Chair, Communication Chair, Webmaster, and the several Cruise Masters (who are Cruise Master I, Class II/III; Cruise Master II, Class III/IV; Cruise Master III, Overnighters; Cruise Master IV, Non-Paddling; Cruise Master V, Flatwater).
- B. The officers shall be elected at the annual membership September meeting each year by a majority vote of the club members attending. The elected Officers will serve for a one-year period, beginning on October 1st, and ending on September 30th. Executive Officers may serve for two additional consecutive terms for a term of three consecutive terms in the same office. Non- executive board officers may serve indefinite terms, as elected.

V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The officers of the Club shall constitute the Board of Directors. They shall formulate, plan, transact club business, and formulate policy recommendations to be voted on by the membership.
- B. Vacancies occurring among the members of the Board shall be filled by appointment of the

Club Officers, except for the office of President. If this office is vacated, the Vice President will succeed as President.

- C. The Board of Directors is empowered upon majority agreement to take whatever action necessary to correct undesirable activity or conduct of club members.. This may be verbal reprimand, probation, or exclusion from the Club and club forums.

VI. MEETINGS

- A. The Club will meet at least twice a year, one meeting being in September for the purpose of officer elections. These shall be a meeting of all club members present.
- B. The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly.
- C. The annual meeting shall review any pertinent reports from officers and committees.
- D. All the above meetings shall be open to the club general membership with notice given in the prior club newsletter and the club online calendar.

VII. AMENDMENTS.

Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be signed by three active members and submitted in writing to the Club Officers. The Board will then publish the proposed changes in the club newsletter and club forums, giving a minimum one month's notice before setting a vote on the changes. After said notice, changes may be voted at a publicized club meeting. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of membership present and voting at the meeting.

Tennessee Valley Canoe Club

TVCC Bylaws

TVCC BYLAWS (Revised October 1976, December 1980, January 1991, April 1996, November 2005, July 2006, October 2008, September 2010, December 2013, and September 2016 4/11/1996, 7/13/2006, 9/11/2010, 12/13/2013, 10/10/2016, 9/9/2017)

I. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the club is based on one family-household membership for all persons living at the same family-household physical address.
- B. Any person otherwise qualified under Article III, who is a member of the Club member family-household, shall automatically become a member of the Club.
- C. Club membership will be based on a 12-month cycle which will begin on the date when the club receives payment from each individual or family. Membership rights and benefits begin immediately upon receipt of payment and ends the day after the 12-month period.

II. DUES

- A. The Board of Directors can recommend dues changes to be presented to the membership for discussion one month previous to being voted on by the membership, passing by a simple majority.
- B. Dues will be based on a 12-month cycle which will start when the club receives payment from each member or family.
- C. If a member does not renew their membership within their 12-month cycle then their membership will expire the day after the 12-month period ends. They will be dropped from membership and all rights and benefits will be ended. If they renew their membership at a later date, then the 12-month cycle will begin based on the new date that the payment is received.
- D. No cancellation or refund of dues may be made if a member resigns before the end of their 12-month membership period.
- E. All board of director members are eligible as non-paying members during the time that they serve on the board.
- F. Lifetime members are exempt from payment of dues. Lifetime members are nominated by the TVCC board members.

III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings at which he/she is present, shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Club, and shall serve as member ex-officio of all committees except the nominating committee. The President will periodically write a column for the club newsletter.
- B. The Vice President shall provide a program of training activities, primarily Paddle School.

He/she shall also assume the duties of the President during his/her absence.

C. The Assistant Vice President shall assist the Vice President with the yearly organization of Paddle School.

D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Club which will be an accurate and official record of all business transacted and make the minutes available to the club members. He/she shall also collect mail from the Club post office box. He/she shall also be the custodian of all Club records and shall receive copies of all correspondence related to Club business, to include retention of trip liability waivers. The Secretary will also conduct membership duties, to include contacting new members, maintaining accurate membership lists and directory data, and conduct registration duties as necessary for various club activities. He/she shall also produce an annual membership directory and distribute it to the membership.

E. The Safety Chair is responsible for the planning of safety activities such as Swiftwater Rescue, the Rescue Rodeo, CPR/First Aid classes, and any other safety activities deemed necessary. He/she will also communicate the safety policies of the club to the membership at large, and make recommendations about expenditures for safety training and equipment. He/she will periodically provide a column or articles for the club newsletter about safety issues important to paddlers.

F. The Communications Chair is responsible for developing and implementing a communications strategy that is consistent with and promotes Club mission and goals. The Communications Chair is responsible for the preparation, publication, and distribution of the Club newsletter consistent with Club policies, using content provided by Officers desiring specific content in the newsletter, generally monthly. Independent of content requested and provided by TVCC officers, the Communications Chair will actively seek content based on the Club's Communication Strategy to provide content of interest and deemed useful to members such as safety, river information, promotion of upcoming events, requests for volunteers, etc. The Communications Chair will be the primary point of contact for the news media; responding to media questions and coordinating interviews with members as approved by Club leadership. He/She will provide guidance, support and talking points to appropriate members in their interaction with the press.

G. The Treasurer collects, deposits, and disperses club funds. The treasurer can invoice and collect member dues and will coordinate with the Secretary to maintain an accurate record of each member's status in the club. The Treasurer will prepare the Club's budget and present it to the Board for approval one month prior to the start of the fiscal year and facilitate adherence to said budget. The Treasurer will maintain accurate financial records in accordance with Federal and State requirements and make them available for review at any time by the Board or any club member upon request. Minimally, the Treasurer will publish a quarterly financial report in the Club Newsletter. The Treasurer will transact all business through Club-approved banks and financial services accounts. The Treasurer will inform the Club's Board of current financial status by written report, at least monthly, and when requested, inform the Club of its financial strengths and weaknesses. The Treasurer will file appropriate forms with the Federal Internal Revenue Service

and the State of Tennessee Departments of Revenue and State at the appropriate times in the financial calendar. The Treasurer will disburse funds and pay bills promptly or as directed by the Board. In the absence of the Secretary, the Treasurer will record and publish minutes of any Board directed meeting.

H. The River Conservation Chair shall keep the members informed about projects or legislation affecting the natural environment of our local wildwater systems and to coordinate conservation activities such as river cleanups and any other conservation activities deemed necessary. He/she will periodically provide a column or article(s) for the club newsletter about conservation issues important to paddlers.

I. The Cruise Masters shall be responsible for scheduling river and non-river activities, generally monthly. They will communicate the 'Safety On Paddle Trips' policy and procedures given below in the Club By-Laws to the scheduled trip leader.

J. The Executive Committee may appoint an auditor to examine the records of the Treasurer and certify their correctness to the Club annually.

K. The Webmaster will organize and supervise the Club's electronic forums, to include the Club Web Page.

L. One person may not hold more than two offices simultaneously.

IV. **COMMITTEES**

A. A Nominating Committee of at least 3 club members shall be appointed by the President by August 1. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of qualified candidates for the several Officer positions by at least two weeks before the annual membership meeting in September. This Officer candidate list shall then be communicated to each member of the club by the Secretary.

B. The Ocoee Race committee is responsible for organizing and holding the Annual Ocoee Race on the second Saturday in October. Additionally, they are responsible for organizing and holding the After Party which benefits the organization of choice of the Board and Committee.

C. Other committees may be appointed by the President.

V. **SAFETY ON PADDLE TRIPS**

A. Policy

1. TVCC has a long tradition of providing paddling trips and training intermediate paddlers. In order to continue this tradition safely, TVCC herein provides a set of guidelines for Trip Leader reference in planning club trips. Safety guidelines are, for the most part, simply a matter of common sense and reflect procedures that experienced recreational boaters already follow. Still, a safety plan will help ensure that trips are free of undue hazards, and that participants know how to respond in the event of an accident.

2. The procedures that follow are designed to help Trip Leaders develop a sound plan of safety. They are “best practice” standards for safe paddling in any case, but important steps to follow on any club-sponsored trip. A club-sponsored trip is any formal, pre-planned trip posted with a designated leader on the Club online calendar and/or the club newsletter calendar.

B. Procedures for all TVCC Paddle Sport Activities

1. **Prior to the Club Trip or Activity, the Trip Leader will:**

- a. Have prior experience on the river/body of water in question or recruit a boater who has the necessary river experience to lead the trip on the water.
- b. Screen trip participants prior to departure as to their skill level, experience, equipment (to include flotation), roll efficiency, etc. As necessary, pre-screening can be prior to put-in, at which point trip leaders are authorized to exclude those with insufficient skill or inadequate equipment, or for reasons listed below.
- c. Trip Leaders may allow non-TVCC members as a one- time guest(s). The guest(s) must sign the club waiver and have adequate skills and equipment for the trip. Guest status is a one- time exception, after which guests must join the club to participate further.
- d. Be aware of weather conditions/water levels and make safety judgments accordingly.
- e. Develop an evacuation plan, which could include land route evacuation, available vehicles, and whereabouts of the nearest Emergency Room. For assistance in developing an evacuation plan, contact the TVCC Safety Chair.
- f. Ensure that the TVCC Waiver of Liability is signed by every trip participant on EVERY official TVCC sponsored trip. All minors must have a waiver release signed by their parent/guardian PRIOR to the trip or event.
- g. Trip Leaders will recruit adequate support boaters and may use trip assistants/coordinators to track participants or otherwise assist, as desired.
- h. The Trip Leader has the authority to cancel or abort ANY trip at his/her discretion, for ANY reason.
- i. The Trip Leader has the authority to deny ANY person from participating for ANY reason, to include but not limited to questions of temperament, skill, strength, and equipment.

2. Before putting on the river or other water body, the Trip Leader will gather the entire group for a Safety Talk, which shall include:

- a. Description of the water and its conditions, hazards, and rapids.
- b. Survey the group for allergies and potentially limiting medical conditions.
- c. Survey gear and outfitting to assure all participants are equipped for the conditions (including hats/sunscreen if sea kayaking, dry clothes, water, food).
- d. Review river signals (stop, go, right, left, are you o.k.?).
- e. Count the number of throw ropes and first aid kits and who has them (the Trip Coordinator should always set an example by carrying both).
- f. Identify the members in the group who have knowledge of CPR and First Aid.
- g. Appoint a lead and sweep boat and explain controlled river descent techniques. Individual participants are responsible to stay between the lead and sweep boats and should have the (a) skill (boat control), and (b) sufficient group awareness to do so.
- h. Have the group check each other's equipment before embarking, for example: grab loops out, tighten helmets and life jackets, etc. Explanation of the nature of the risk involved in the sport and that by signing the liability waiver, participants have waived the right to sue at law.

3. After the trip, the Trip Leader shall:

- a. Notify the Safety Chair of any hazardous incident, lost boat, or injury requiring professional medical treatment, as soon as possible en route home or immediately upon return.
- b. Publish any found hazards (i.e., wood, etc.) as soon as possible upon return, using existing Club forums.
- c. WITHIN ONE WEEK, send the signed Liability Waivers to the Club, where the Secretary will retain them for a minimum of two years.

4. Responsibilities of the Safety Chair

- a. TVCC will provide support to Trip Leaders by offering the following:

1. At little or no charge, classes in CPR/First Aid and Swiftwater Rescue yearly;
 2. Assistance in developing safety and evacuation plans for Club Trips;
 3. Upon request, first aid kits and throw ropes purchased with TVCC funds.
- b. In addition, the Safety Chair will:
1. Maintain a list of club members who are certified in CPR/First Aid.
 2. Assure there is a written Safety Plan for the Paddle School, Swiftwater Rescue clinics, the Rescue Rodeo, and other similar type club sponsored events.
 3. Assess club safety training and equipment needs and make recommendations to the Board for expenditures and programs.
 4. Collect information about accidents or events on club trips for the purpose of ongoing education of the membership.

VI. PARLIAMENTARY

- A. "Roberts Rules of Order Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority for this Club in all cases in which it is not inconsistent with these by-laws.
- B. In the case of co-chairs for a single Board position, only a single vote will be cast.
- C. In the case of a vote required outside of a Board meeting, the following steps are to be taken:
 1. A board member makes a motion via email online
 2. Another board member second's the motion via email online
 3. The President accepts it or may defer it to the next Board meeting, but not reject it.
 4. If accepted, then the President sets the time for debate and when the voting starts and stops, with all online email discussion being by use of the officers@tvccpaddler.com email address. The whole Board membership is the number present and voting to determine if a majority affirms the motion, excepting a person who, *before* the motion is made, declares him/herself incommunicado for Board business.
 5. The President declares the result of the vote. The motion, second, and vote result is then recorded at the next Board meeting with all necessary details.

VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws were made October 1976, December 1980, January 1991, April 1996, November 2005, July 2006, October 2008, September 2010, December 2013, September 2016, and September 2017 and are included herein.

Brief History of TVCC

TVCC was founded in the Fall of 1967, following a simple newspaper ad in the Chattanooga Times Free Press asking anyone interested in forming a canoe paddling group to meet up one evening and talk about it. The rest is history as they say!

Charter/Founding Members of TVCC

1. Don Bodley (Original Founder of TVCC)
2. John Alden
3. Jean Dolan
4. John Hertzling
5. Don Hixson
6. Walter Popp
7. Mary Shepard and Robert Shepard
8. John Shultz
9. John F. Wright (aka Jack Wright)

TVCC held its first paddle school, called the School of River Canoeing, in 1968, in coordination with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA), TVCC's sister organization in the Nashville area. There were 30 students. By 1970, it had grown to 100 students from across the Southeast and the rest is history. Originally held on Memorial Day weekend, it is now held on the first weekend after Memorial Day, and called Paddle School. 2023 will be the 55th consecutive year (less 2020 due to COVID restrictions).

First TVCC Lifetime Members were recognized in 2007 - Jim Ledbetter, Hal Tutor, and Taylor (Momma T) Watson.

The first Ocoee Race was held in October of 2009. It was developed and championed by Emily Walsh Smoot for the first five years and then Jen Maxwell Smith for the next five years. As Emily tells the story, *"Crazy to think this race all got started because Brian Goodwin showed up late to paddle the Ocoee after taking Rod "Coon" McCloud down the Hiwassee for his first time, and still wanting to get an Ocoee run in before he had to be home per his wife! Brian and I bombed down while Rod ran shuttle. Halfway down we said, this is fun! We should have a race! And so, we did."*

In 2017, TVCC was presented the American Canoe Association (ACA) **Stroke of Achievement Award** in recognition of its outstanding programs.

In 2020, TVCC was presented the ACA **J. Henry Rushton Award** in recognition of its outstanding achievements in advancing paddlesports and the mission of the ACA.

In 2022, TVCC was inducted into the **Southern Appalachian Whitewater Hall of Fame's** inaugural class for its sustained and positive impact to the paddling community in the Southeast.

More Timeline History of TVCC

1967

- First Canoe Club organizational meeting held at the old Red Cross chapter house on McCallie Avenue across from Memorial Auditorium. Lowell Bennington put an ad in the Chattanooga area paper asking for people interested in paddling to attend. According to Don Bodley, "about half a dozen people showed up." The two became acquainted when Bennington saw Bodley's car in town with a canoe on top and sought him out.

- According to Don, “we started paddling local rivers, started a newsletter announcing trips, and people showed up.” There was some dispute in those times on bathrooms for mixed trips so the rule was Upstream for Women, Downstream for Men “and we did just fine.”
- Most people who started TVCC had paddled flat water and done some fishing but had not really searched for moving or challenging whitewater. Some of the folks involved:
 - Jack Wright - historian, now deceased
 - Jean Dolan - now 101, now deceased
 - John Alden - deceased - and his family
 - Bob Wagner
 - Alan Crawford
 - Lavonne Lambert—1st TVCC Scholarship recipient to go for Whitewater Instructor Training
 - Don Bodley, who had moved to Chattanooga from New York to work for TVA. Deceased.

1968

- First Canoe School jointly held with Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) at the Hiwassee River in Reliance, TN. Since those early days the club has settled on the Hiwassee and the Ocoee Rivers in Benton, TN as the best locations for us to conduct Paddle School. In years where there was no water (it happens) or too much water (that happens too), the club improvised and conducted classes on surrounding rivers like the Conasauga, Toccoa, French Broad, and Cartecay.

1969

- TVCC worked with TSRA to get political protection for the State’s Scenic Rivers. They wanted to get more people involved in river protection and Don Bodley felt it important to show more people on river trips “where they could have fun and see first hand the values and needs of the river.” The focus was on: “... *take care of the rivers and leave nothing behind.*”

1970

- First TVCC trip on the Nantahala River, led by John Alden
- TVCC sponsored weekend water safety classes

1974-75

- After the movie “Deliverance” came out, TVCC began regularly running club trips on the Chattooga in Georgia, along with the Georgia Canoe Association (GCA)

1976

- “Hair” boaters begin paddling Ocoee in open boats, Daddy’s on the Plateau, Gauley, Chattooga Section IV, and the French Broad

1978-79 (c)

- Bill Miller is TVCC president, the Ocoee #2 flume was shut down for rebuilding, and regular water was in the river bed for the first time in decades. Bill spearheaded the formation of the Ocoee River Council to advocate for continued water releases once the flume repair was completed. TVA was in opposition to the ORC’s position but lost in Federal Court. ORC escorted then Governor Lamar Alexander down the river in a raft.

TVCC Lifetime Members [\(Last Update: 5 Dec 2022\)](#)

Lifetime Members of TVCC are chosen by the Board of Directors in consultation with a group of distinguished legacy members ("old heads") in recognition of years of continued selfless contributions and dedication to the mission of the Club. The award was established in 2007. These current and past members were pioneers and innovators in the paddling community in the Chattanooga region, providing the leadership and energy necessary to guide the club in the development of the programs and activities we enjoy today. They are our TVCC Hall of Fame members!

**** = Deceased**

Jim Ledbetter, pre-2007

Hal Tutor, pre-2007

Taylor Watson, pre-2007

Spence Lycan, 2013, awarded at Rescue Rodeo

John Hubbard, 2013, awarded at paddle school

Eric Fleming, 2014, awarded at paddle school

Mike Shillinger, 2015, awarded at paddle school

John Kern, 2016, awarded at paddle school

Pat Carver, 2017, awarded at paddle school

Katie Larue, 2017, awarded at paddle school

Uwe and Carol () Zitzow, 2017**, awarded pre-paddle school, presented at 50th anniversary event Sep 2017

Don Bodley **, awarded at 50th Anniversary event Sep 2017 **(Founding Member of TVCC)**

Jean Dolan **, awarded at 50th Anniversary event Sep 2017 **(Founding Member of TVCC)**

Mack O'Rear, 2018, awarded at paddle school

Paul Shoun, 2018, awarded at paddle school

Jamie Wendt, 2018, awarded at paddle school

Kent & Jane Overbeck, 2018, awarded at paddle school

Jeff & Becky Richard, 2018, awarded at paddle school

Carolyn Rand, 2019, awarded at paddle school

Ben Johnson, 2019 awarded at paddle school