



# USCA Canoe & Kayak Race Insurance Rates Hold Steady

Tarpon Springs, FL

At its 41st Annual Meeting, the *United States Canoe Association (USCA)* voted to keep its highly competitive liability insurance rates for canoe race insurance and kayak race insurance unchanged (low) for 2009. The *USCA's* rates, among the most competitive in the industry, have enabled race organizers to find affordable liability insurance and keep the sport of canoe racing and kayak racing active.

Canoe race insurance and kayak race insurance brings important protection

and peace of mind to canoe race and kayak race organizers, and other parties involved in putting on a canoe race or a kayak race, or other kinds of canoe or kayak events.

The *USCA* also maintains a very competitive program for canoe club and kayak club liability insurance. *USCA's* program has permitted clubs to get year round insurance for all of their activities, which also promotes both canoe racing and kayak racing, as well as cruising, canoe camping, and canoe and kayak tripping.

For additional information, please contact the *USCA's* insurance administrators, **Larry** or **Maria Liquori** at (631) 269-9696, or by email at [LLiquori@jacka-liquori.com](mailto:LLiquori@jacka-liquori.com) and [MariaL@jacka-liquori.com](mailto:MariaL@jacka-liquori.com).

# Old Lorraine

A comrade in the *Ouïatenon Voyageur Brigade* wrote:

**O**ld Lorraine, known in the 20th/21st century as **Chuck Weis**, passed away this morning (Saturday 1/31/2009). **Chuck** was one of the founding members of the *Ouïatenon Brigade* and had stayed active in the *Brigade* throughout the *Brigade's* infamous history. His "Feast" race routes, love of education and children, and tall-tales will be missed.

**Pierre Dumas**

"Bringer of short bread"

Engagé, avant, and duly shanghaied bourgeois, *Ouïatenon Brigade*, [palantir@mac.com](mailto:palantir@mac.com)

See the fuller memorial notice to the right on **Chuck's** passing.

**2009 USCA Aluminum Nationals / Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon**

Vernon Hills to Wheeling IL, May 16/17 [www.canoemarathon.com](http://www.canoemarathon.com)

**2009 USCA National Canoe & Kayak National Championships**

Warren PA, Aug 11-16 [www.wccbi.com](http://www.wccbi.com)

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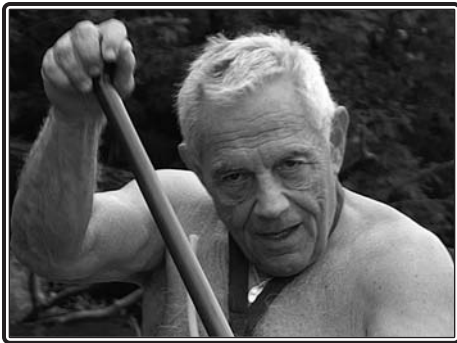
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[www.paddleone.com](http://www.paddleone.com)



## USCA Founder Thor Ronemus 1930-2009

**T**hor Ronemus died Saturday, January 3, 2009 at his home at 1157 George Allen Drive, South Vienna, Ohio. He was born November 27, 1930 in Springfield, Ohio, son of **Louis Gladden** and **Irene Massie Ronemus**. He is survived by his sister, **Deanne (Jim) Leierzapf**; sons **Eric (Anne) Ronemus**, **Michael (Kim) Ronemus**, **Andrew (Tracie) Ronemus** and **Kyle (Amby) Ronemus**; lifelong friend and mother of his sons, **Nancy B Ronemus**; and his companion **Lenane (Nan) Shepherd**; grandchildren include **Christopher, Brianna, Charlie, Charlotte, Georgia, Baylor, Drew, Chance** and **Thor R Ronemus**.

He attended Athens, GA High School while his father was in the military and returned to Springfield to finish high school. He was selected to the first string 1947 All-Ohio football and was Captain of the *Ohio High School South All-star Team* in 1948. In 2008, Thor was honored by the *Athens High School Hall of Fame*, a designation which was a treasure from a memorable time in his life.

Thor received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Juris Doctor Law Degrees from the Ohio State University, where he played football for Coaches **Wes Fesler** and **Woody Hayes**. He was a member of *Sigma Chi Fraternity* and was a Mason. He was admitted to practice law in Ohio in 1955 and in Florida in 1973, practicing law for 53 years, the past 30 with James Heath.

He served in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps.

He served as President of the *Varsity "O" Club* of Ohio State University and was a member and past president of the *Clark County Bar Association*, an officer of the *Springfield University Club*, a member of the *Springfield City Civil Service Commission*, the *Ohio State Bar Association*, *United States Canoe Association*, the *Ohio State University Alumni Association* and the *Springfield Polo Club*.

He was a charter member and the original Vice President of the *United States Canoe Association* when it was formed in 1968 and has been an Ohio delegate most of the years since. He had canoed for years in competition in marathon canoeing and won the *National C2 Down River Marathon USCA Canoe Championship* in 1969 and 1970. He and his sons enjoyed many hours on the rivers paddling in canoe races.

He was a member of First Lutheran Church. Memorials in his honor may be made to the Springfield Regional Cancer Center, First Lutheran Church, or a charity of your choice.

## USCA Past President, Chuck Weis 1933-2009

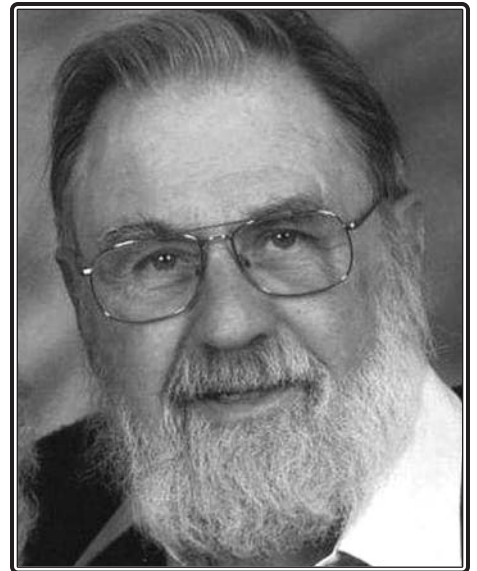
**C**harles Nicholas "Chuck" Weis, 75, aka **George Leatherhand**, aka **Old Lorraine**, of Lafayette, IN died Saturday, January 31, 2009 in his home.

Born July 28, 1933 in Jamaica, NY, he was the son of the late **Karl G** and **Ruth Rayls Weis**.

He married **Doris Deibler** on Aug 25, 1956, in West Orange, NJ.

He was an apprentice photographer in the Navy from 1953 to 1955, and received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Mariette College and an master's of arts degree in communications from Purdue University.

In the 1960s and '70s he worked in radio and television as a reporter and became news director at WASK radio.



Later he worked for Purdue News Service, operated Three Rivers Canoe Livery, and taught communications at Ivy Tech. For the past 20 years he had worked as editor and free-lance writer for several outdoor-related magazines.

From 1968 to 1973 he served on the *Mayor's Commission on Human Relations*. He volunteered in many capacities for other organizations such as *Wildcat Creek Federation* and *Wildcat Creek Foundation*, *Wildcat Guardians*, *Lafayette Canoe Club*, *The Nature Conservancy*, *Sierra Club*, *Ouiatenon Voyager Brigade*, the *American* and *US* canoe associations, *Tippecanoe Storytellers Guild*, *Southside Food Pantry*, *Tippecanoe County CASA* and *Head Start*. He was instrumental in starting the *Wabash Riverfest*.

Mr Weis pursued mission opportunities through his church, St Andrew United Methodist in West Lafayette. He enjoyed gardening, camping, canoeing, travel and photography.

Surviving with his wife are daughters, **Wendy Smith** of Valparasio, IN and **Rebecca Weis** of Asheville, NC; a son, **David Weis** of Lafayette; and a brother, **John Weis** (wife: **Diane**) of Lewes, DE.

**Also surviving** are grandsons, Skyler and Trey Smith.

**Chuck's** wife, **Doris**, said that he would want memorials in his honor to be made to *USCA*, *Sierra Club*, or St Andrew United Methodist in West Lafayette.

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